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GST INCLUSIVE

FIFA FARCE

By Mark Stavroulakis

Diabolical news hit home the whole Oceania footballing region last Saturday evening after hearing the news that its direct spot into the 2006 World Cup in Germany was all but lost.

A FIFA congress meeting held in conjunction with last month's Confederations Cup in France produced the devastating unexpected vote that again put football off the world map in Oceania and succumbed the sport back to square one.

CONMEBOL representatives from day one disregarded the news of Oceania gaining that direct entry and caused uproar in its decision.

The voting results of whether Oceania deserved that entry were all but destroyed when a unanimous 22 out of the 24 FIFA delegates voted against the move - the only positive vote came from OFC President Basil Scarsella.

What made matters worse was the fact that FIFA over ruled its initial decision made back in December when FIFA President Sepp Blatter had announced that a direct spot to the next World Cup would be handed to Oceania.

Betrayal against the entire Oceania region - I think so.

The lies and deceptions that took place during this meeting was something written off a Godfather script - how could this be has been the question many soccer observers from the dozen or so countries in the Oceania region have stated?

After months of lobbying by OFC President Basil Scarsella in gaining that elusive spot came the grim news that half a spot was yet again awarded to Oceania meaning a showdown with a South American or Asian nation was on the cards again.

The two so-called reasons that have surfaced itself as to why the spot was lost has also been questioned.

The fact New Zealand put in a poor showing at this year's Confederations Cup.

Finally, the farcical state the game's administration in Australia has been.

Scarsella added to 'The Australian' that these reasons were an injustice. "I don't think this is a moral, ethical or commercial decision, simply a political one which does no favours for the reputation of FIFA or the development of the game. The excuse that it is in the instability of the administration in Australia and the poor football of New Zealand is just a short-term opportunism to justify a long-term decision."

One man that plotted against Oceania was Sepp Blatter's firm critic Lennart Johansson.

"It was too early to give them direct entry," were the words echoed out by



A shocked Frank Farina after hearing the devastating news.

Johansson.

The question is though, when will we ever be ready if we have yet to receive that chance?

Julio Grondona (Chief of Argentine Football) and Oscar Astudillo (Colombian representative) also sent harsh words out to the Oceania region after its result.

"I have to thank Lennart Johansson because he was a fundamental factor in this decision," was Grondona's quote.

While Astudillo stated "I am very happy, we have got back what was ours." Socceroo coach Frank Farina was left astonished at the outcome of this unscheduled vote that took place in Paris last week.

"To be honest, FIFA's decision was an absolute disgrace. It smacks of a political decision with the FIFA executive pandering to the strong South American lobby. Nothing more or less," Farina stated to 'The Australian'.

The only hope Oceania has off salvaging anything from this destructive decision could lie in the hands of the proposed Frank Lowy side who hope to take

over the game's governing body next month.

It is believed that Lowy and Co have a good relationship with Mr Blatter and that a meeting would be organized between the new group and the FIFA President.

In the future of the game, Lowy must be appointed if there's any chance of claiming that spot back.

It seemed as though Lazarus, being the Oceania region, was to be resurrected from the soccer wilderness after all these years.

Now its simply means nothing, the region has been double crossed and now face the treacherous task of qualifying the old way again.

Will we ever see the light in the development of soccer in Oceania?

With FIFA on our side, I think not.

STOP PRESS

OLYMPIC APPOINT NEW PRESIDENT

By Mark Stavroulakis

Sydney Olympic last Monday appointed Greg Gavrilidis as the new President of the club taking over the former four owners.

The members and new sponsors of the club headlined by Jim Augerinos recommended Gavrilidis as the new man in charge.

The former media owner has already stated that Jubilee Oval in Kogarah could be Olympic's venue for next season.

Pre-season has been scheduled for mid-July with a number of new faces set to pull on the traditional Sydney Olympic colours next season.

The club will hold its AGM on the 3rd August.

SCARSELLA UNPLUGGED DOBSON - THE NEW KNIGHTS MAN "EMO'S WORLD"



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James ('Judy') Masters The Bradman Of Soccer

By John Economos

JAMES ('JUDY') MASTERS, arguably one of Australia's very first sporting legends, during an era that was prior to the great Phar Lap and Sir Donald Bradman, was born and raised in the small South Coast township of NSW, Balgownie.

Masters, incredibly skilled with both feet, soon became a sensation at all Soccer grounds with his amazing goalscoring feats.

At the tender age of 15, the lightly framed, super-talented Masters, made his debut with the Balgownie Rangers Soccer Club.

It was from this small, but high-profiled club, where 'Judy' launched his incredible career that lifted him, at the age of just 16, into the arenas of the NSW State team.

Very soon Masters graduated to play and captain Australia in 22 internationals where he scored 12 goals.

Despite his lithe frame, the unyielding Masters played as an orthodox centre-forward (central striker), and finished his distinguish career in 1927 having played no less than 401 matches, scoring an amazing 351 goals.

Adding to his distinguished achievements, 'Judy' was most proud of the fact that he was never once cautioned in 401 games.

The courageous Masters was not only a schemer, but also an unbelievable mobile strategist.

The Media rapidly gave him a second tag, calling him 'the Little Master'.

Today, Balgownie Rangers, (Masters' old Club), stands as Australia's oldest active Soccer club, having endured 120 years.

The Balgownie Rangers

Club saluted its historic hero by naming its picturesque home ground The 'Judy Masters Park'.

The sad reality is that James 'Judy' Masters despite having been in his era an Australian sporting icon, today has not been immortalised to the lofty levels that other sporting icons such as Phar Lap and Sir Donald Bradman have been bestowed with.

The great New Zealand born racehorse Phar Lap, exploded on the Australian sporting scene between 1929

and 32, incredibly winning a monumental 37 of his 51 starts.

The globally immortal cricketing technician, Sir Donald Bradman, with his broad hat plus razor eyesight, blazed no less than 29 Centuries from just 52 Tests to end his career with the phenomenal batting average of 99.94.

This week ABSW belatedly salutes the great James ('Judy') Masters.

(See Special Feature page 17)



JAMES ('JUDY') MASTERS in action for his beloved Balgownie Rangers Soccer Club.



MARC-VIVIEN FOE

Special Tribute

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BY DANIEL KUZIW

AGF Aarhus have swooped to sign Australian Under-21 international Shane Cansdell-Sherriff from Leeds United.

The 20-year-old defender has signed a three-year contract with the Danish club and is seen as an ideal replacement for central defender Mads Rieper, who did not get a new contract.

Cansdell-Sherriff spent four years at Elland Road but, despite being part of the first team squad for the last two-and-a-half seasons, failed to make an impact.

"I'm very excited about AGF and I look forward to it," said Cansdell-Sherriff.

"Hopefully I can gather some experience in the first team. Manager Poul Hansen has told me about the team, and he has huge expectations for the coming season."

AGF director Frank Heskjaer is looking forward to seeing the newcomer in action in the SAS-Ligaen.

"We have watched him in 10-12 games, and I'm convinced Shane will strengthen the team immediately," Heskjaer told the official AGF website.



Shane Cansdell Sherriff:
Has left Leeds United for
Danish club AGF Aarhus.



Angelo Costanzo: The Marconi defender may be set to sign with Partick Thistle.

Angelo Costanzo on a one-year loan from Australian National Soccer League side Marconi Stallions.

According to reports, the proposed move would allow The Jags to have the option of buying the 27-year-old at the end of his loan spell at Firhill.

Costanzo had an unsuccessful trial with fellow Scottish Premier League side Hibernian a few years back but Collins seems ready to bring the defender to the Glasgow-based outfit, likening his abilities to that of Rangers centre half Lorenzo Amoroso.

"When I saw videos of him in action I thought I was watching Amoroso, he looks the same and their styles are similar on the park too," Collins told Planetfootball.com.

"He is a big, strong lad who likes to win the ball and then play his way out of defence."



Patrick Kishorbo: Has finally secured a move to Scottish club Hearts.

"He has played in midfield for Australia, so that says something about his quality on the ball."

"He also loves breaking forward and joining attacks, and like Amoroso he isn't scared to have a shot on goal."

"There is an energy and enthusiasm about his play which really excites me."

"I believe he could light up Firhill and is exactly the kind of quality player we need."

"The boy is desperate to come to the SPL and make a name for himself, and he sees Partick Thistle as the ideal place to start a new chapter in his career."

"Hopefully he will do a job for us for a year and then we'll see where it takes us."

Barcelona have confirmed that Leeds United striker Mark Viduka is one of the players they are interested in.

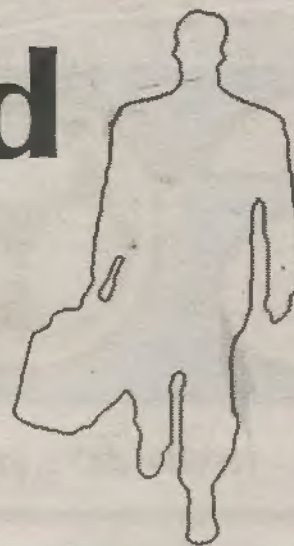
New Barca coach Frank Rijkaard has spoken with Viduka's agent Andrea D'Amico about a move to Camp Nou.

D'Amico has also been in contact with new president Joan Laporta about the possibility of signing the powerful Australian marksman, and the Spanish giants have now confirmed that Viduka is a man they are after.

The financial situation at Elland Road means that they will listen to offers for all of their players, and Viduka, along with Paul Robinson and Harry Kewell, look set to move on.

With the news that Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert can leave the club for a bargain basement price Barca are preparing a list of replacements.

Barca vice-president Sandro Rosell has therefore confirmed that Viduka is one of the men on



the list of players that Catalan club are interested in.

"Due to the financial situation in Barcelona we have made a list of six or seven players that we have in mind to cover for departures," Rosell told *Sky Sports*.

"I can confirm to you that the Viduka is one of the names on the list."

"Some of them are from the Premiership but we prefer to try and keep things secret for now, if we can."

Hearts have won the race to sign Australian star Patrick Kishorbo from South Melbourne.

The 23-year-old defender is due to travel to Tynecastle at the weekend and boss Craig Levein hopes to tie up the deal early next week.

Three other Scottish clubs, Dunfermline Athletic, Dundee United and Inverness Caledonian Thistle were also trying to land Kishorbo but The Jambos have fended off the competition to win the race.

The Edinburgh club begin their UEFA Cup campaign on September 25 and Levein sees Kishorbo as a valued addition to his squad as the international can operate in both defence and midfield.



Mark Viduka: The target of Spanish giants Barcelona.

Dunfermline have offered a trial to another Australian, as midfielder Daniel Aliffi is set to join fellow countryman Andy Packer at the club.

The 21-year currently plays for Wollongong Wolves in the Australian NSL and will travel to Scotland next week for trials at East End Park, after declaring that he wishes to leave the Aussie side.

Aliffi spent time on trial at Luton Town a couple of season ago but failed to impress, and subsequently returned to Australia but now has a chance to impress Pars boss Jimmy Calderwood.

It was a similar situation with Packer, who was given a trial at Division One side Millwall, but failed to win a contract at The New Den.

The Aussie duo are hoping to emulate compatriots such as Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka who have made such an impact in the Premiership with Leeds United.

Australian footballers are enjoying a higher than usual profile at present, following the national side's victory over England earlier this year, and it is unlikely that Dunfermline will be the last club to run the rule over players from Down Under.

Tony Popovic says he is delighted with Crystal Palace's appointment of Steve Kember as new manager.

The Australia international has established himself as a mainstay of Palace's defence and told the club's website: "A few of my friends back home called me to say they'd seen on the news that Steve had been appointed."

"I've spoken to a few of the team now and we're all pleased with it."

"We all get on well with Steve, he's respected by the club and by the players. I'm sure he's looking forward to the new season and so are we."

KEWELL'S AGENT REJECTS SPLIT CLAIMS

LEEDS United's Australian international striker Harry Kewell has not snubbed club manager Peter Reid, his agent claimed today.

The 24-year-old has been linked with a move away this summer as the cash-strapped

Premiership side endeavour to appease their bankers and Arsenal. Manchester United and Liverpool have all indicated an interest.

Arsenal looked to be the front runners initially but owing to their money problems they could offer money

plus players, though none of those such as midfielder Ray Parlour wanted to move north.

Reid had claimed Kewell, who has a year left on his present contract, had been deliberately avoiding contact with the Leeds boss as he attempted to discover what his plans for next season are - he is expected to announce

his decision by July 7.

However, his agent Bernie Mandic denied that Kewell, who scored 16 times last season but rejected a record offer for a new contract of a four-year deal worth STG48,000 (\$120,000) a week, was doing any such thing.

"It is wrong to suggest Harry doesn't want to speak

to Peter Reid. Peter's words may have been taken out of context," he told the BBC website.

"Harry and I have never had a problem with Peter Reid or anyone else at Leeds United.

"He has the greatest respect for Peter. I have also spoken to him recently and there was no suggestion of a

problem.

"Harry will make a decision by the end of the month and Leeds will be informed - which is what all parties have been saying all along.

"In fact we have never ruled out extending Harry's contract at Leeds by two or three years.

"All our discussions have been amicable and profes-

sional. Harry will make a decision over the next couple of days and Leeds will naturally be informed first about that decision.

"Leeds chairman Professor John McKenzie gets back from Japan on Wednesday and he is the man who needs to be informed, along with Peter Reid obviously," added Mandic.



Harry Kewell: The in-demand Australian.

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A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers are pleased to announce the establishment of the A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Youth Academy.

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Empoli last season was the home of Australia superstar Marco Bresciano who was sold for \$25 million dollars in the off season to Parma.



The Rise & Rise Of Emerton

By Peter Damalas

The performance of the Socceroos in the recent friendly against England confirmed one thing at least, the attacking talents of Brett Emerton.

The clinching third goal in the 3-1 victory at Upton Park was crafted out of an attacking run by the Feyenoord player, who reacted quickly to the smart play of John Aloisi late in the second half. The finish was the smoothest and most composed of Emerton's five goals in the Australian guernsey, and confirmed his standing at the very top of the soccer tree.

The match was played during a season in which Emerton has reluctantly relinquished his attacking skills for the sake of the team. His efforts highlight an intense passion for success, a characteristic passed on by his father, Michael.

Emerton has certainly had an excellent grounding in the code, beginning with the Australian Institute of Sport, before a move to National Soccer League club Sydney Olympic. Under Branko Culina, he made a name for himself as an attacking central midfielder, and played a free role while causing havoc with his intelligent running and incisive distribution.

His commitment to the team on the field was remarkable, and his performances in both the 1997 and 1999 World Youth Championships attracted the interest of a host of European clubs. To his credit, Emerton did not become distracted by the many overtures that were made to



Brett Emerton: One of Australia's finest stars.

entice him to Europe, and instead concentrated on his duties as captain of the Olyroos for the 2000 Olympic Games held on home soil.

Such has been the achievements of the player, that it is a wonder that he is still only 24 years of age.

Playing in the supremely technical Dutch Eredivisie with giants Feyenoord Rotterdam, the Australian star has come of age as a team player and has commanded a great deal of respect in European circles.

Brett's father is particularly proud of the maturity shown by his son.

"It is a credit to his ability that he can be used in a variety of positions. He has

played every game for the past two seasons, barring injury and suspension, which for him is rare. He has figured in 95 per cent of fixtures throughout the year" he said.

Unfortunately, a yellow card ruled Emerton out of one of the biggest fixtures in the European calendar, the UEFA Cup Final, when the Rotterdam club defeated the then Bundesliga champions, Borussia Dortmund, 3-2 at the De Kuip Stadium.

His consistency was justly rewarded when he was honoured with the prestigious Oceania Player of the Year trophy for 2002, eclipsing the goal scoring feats of Socceroo teammates Harry Kewell and

Mark Viduka. And while the 'Leeds connection' have dominated the headlines, Emerton has taken on uncharted territories in the Netherlands.

The attacking midfielder has displayed versatility, a unique quality in a footballer, throughout the season just passed, and he has figured prominently as a defensive right back and in central midfield. His doggedness and commitment to the cause frustrated Juventus ace Edgar Davids when the two clubs met in the UEFA Champions League group stage at the beginning of the season.

However, Michael Emerton remains adamant that Brett's strengths lie in his attacking play from midfield.

"The only disappointing part about Brett's time in Europe so far is that he has played at right back, and is not allowed to attack at all. He was signed by Feyenoord as a midfielder, but whenever there is an injury in the squad, he has moved into defensive roles.

It has been frustrating for me to watch at times.

"If you look at his performances for the Socceroos, he has excelled as a go forward player, either from the left or the right" he said.

UEFA selectors agree with Michael's testimony, it seems, after nominating Brett in the European Team of the Year, not as a right back or central midfielder, but as a right winger.

His success reflects the importance of playing regularly in the National Soccer League before trialling overseas. Emerton's two seasons at Olympic gave him the opportunity to establish a footballing identity, and develop the strong mental attitude that will invariably see one through over the course of a demanding season, rather than over the course of a brief trial.

His decisions have been backed up by the long term reasoning of his parents, and despite climbing the heights of European competition at a relatively young age, he remains a player with his

feet firmly planted on the ground.

"I am of the opinion that if you are not good enough in Australia, then how are you ever going to be good enough to play overseas. It is important first of all to prove yourself here. Eventually, the clubs will start to look for you" Michael continued.

Emerton has been the subject of media speculation linking him with a move to the English Premier League.

While the player himself has so far been very open with his desire to play in England, the Emerton camp have denied that a much mooted move to Newcastle United is forthcoming.

"I know nothing about a move to Newcastle. There seems to be a new club involved every week. All I know is that he has one year left on his contract, and that Feyenoord cannot come to an agreement for the transfer fee. This remains the one stumbling block. Brett's long term aim is to play in

England, but nothing concrete has risen as yet" Michael said.

While Emerton will seek to re-establish himself as an attacking weapon in the Feyenoord midfield, should he see out the remaining season on his contract, his own experiences will prove that patience pays off.

Followers of Dutch football will have noticed the hardened edge to Emerton's game. His recently acquired ability to hold off opponents will place him in good stead when the move across the channel to the physically demanding Premier League, eventually comes into fruition.

Emerton has become firmly entrenched in coach Frank Farina's long term plans for the Socceroos leading up to the 2006 World Cup qualifiers. His mental strengths and enviable ability to combine penetration with graft must surely put him in the running for the captaincy of the senior team.



Feyenoord's Aussie star.



'Emo' shown with his parents during his Olympic Sharks days.

"We are a very close family, and Brett was not mentally ready to start his career overseas at an earlier age. He spent a number of great character building years at the AIS and Olympic, and did not let anything interfere with his development," Michael Emerton (Brett's father)

ONE ON ONE WITH OFC PRESIDENT BASIL SCARSELLA



By Daniela Raco

Australian soccer has been given its greatest chance to make up for years of heartbreak after Oceania was granted direct entry to the 2006 World Cup.

Oceania Football Confederation President, and former Soccer Australia Chairman, Basil Scarsella led the campaign for full rights for over two years and closed the deal with some final frantic lobbying in Madrid. It is a credit to FIFA that the right decision was made in the best interests of the game. Qualifying for the World Cup could be worth up to A\$20million for the successful nation.

Mr Scarsella has been at the helm of the OFC presidency since December 2000 when he succeeded the long serving former president, Mr Charles Dempsey. Under Mr Scarsella's leadership the game continues to grow at all levels. In 2002, the OFC was granted direct entry to the 2004 Athens Olympic Games men's and women's football tournaments. This was a prelude to achieving direct entry to the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany.

This week in ABSW I speak to the man at the helm of the OFC, Basil Scarsella. This candid interview gives an in-depth overview of the development of the game, Mr Scarsella's contribution in modernizing its administration, and gaining international recognition for the Oceania regions.

DR: Firstly, Congratulations! You have been recognized on Australia's Queen's Birthday Honors list for your services to soccer. What does this appointment mean to you?

I think that it is more than just personal recognition. Clearly I regard it as an honor to be recognized. I think, importantly, that it is recognition of the game throughout this country. It is recognition of the work of many people performed on a daily basis which goes unrecognized. I accept it with pleasure, but it is on behalf of the workers within soccer that work on a daily basis without recognition.

DR: Last December FIFA rubber-stamped its decision to give the Oceania region direct entry to the next World Cup in Germany in 2006. What does this mean for the development of the game in Australia?

I'm not sure if it was rubber-stamped, but we finally reached agreement for Oceania to be fully recognized as a FIFA Confederation. Earlier on in the year we were granted direct qualification for the Olympic Games, which was also a first and the champion of Oceania will go to Athens in 2004.

The piece to complete the puzzle was direct qualification for the World Cup and that's the culmination of work done not just by me, but also my predecessor Charles Dempsey and the Members of the Executive Committee of Oceania. I was lucky enough to have been there and play a part when the decision was made. It is recognition that Oceania should be regarded as a full FIFA confederation.

DR: How did you win the votes?

We embarked on a strategy about two and a half years ago as to what was required to gain direct qualification and we talked to a lot of the other Confederations well before the December meeting in Madrid to convince them. The critical part was that Sepp Blatter the President of FIFA was always supportive of direct qualification and his re-election made it a lot easier for us to gain direct qualification.

DR: You have said "this is a right, not a handout". Is the decision to grant Oceania direct qualification a credit to FIFA in their aim to develop the game around the globe?

Yes, it's a credit to FIFA, and also the President of FIFA, Sepp Blatter, because there is no question that he is a champion of developing soccer countries and that's reflected not just in Oceania being granted direct qualification but also by the FIFA Goal project, which aims at providing funds to develop infrastructure in developing soccer countries. Oceania has been a significant beneficiary of the FIFA Goal project with eight of our countries receiving a commitment from FIFA to give financial assistance to develop infrastructure, and by infrastructure we mean grounds, buildings, facilities, for the development of the game.

DR: Will the guarantee of a place in Germany change the attitude of many of the Europe-based players who are reluctant to play for Australia?

There is no question. As far as I'm concerned, getting direct qualification is beneficial not just to

the country that eventually gets to go to the World Cup, but also the eleven members of Oceania.

DR: Will a full-strength Australia side beat New Zealand, its biggest threat in the region?

(chuckle...) I just hope it will be a great qualifying path and the best team in Oceania should get to the World Cup.

DR: Given the rotational system set in train by the world governing body, will this region host a World Cup in 2010 or 2014?

It certainly won't be 2010 or 2014. In 2010 it's going to be in Africa. In 2014 it's going to be in South America. I think the earliest possible opportunity for Oceania to host a World Cup will be 2018. We must work hard both on and off the pitch on the administration side to ensure we are ready for 2018. The decision for 2018 will be made in about 2012. We have 10 years to get organized.

DR: What is your grand plan going forward?

Firstly, for the Oceania championship to do well at the Olympic Games in Athens and also at the 2006 World Cup in Germany. Secondly, for an Oceania country to win a FIFA championship, whether it is the Under 17's, or the Under 20's, or the Olympic Games. Just as important is to see that the game in the Island Countries develops.

There is no question that Australia and New Zealand are seen as the flagships of Oceania, but the interest in the Island Countries is immense in football and I think that these Island Countries need financial support

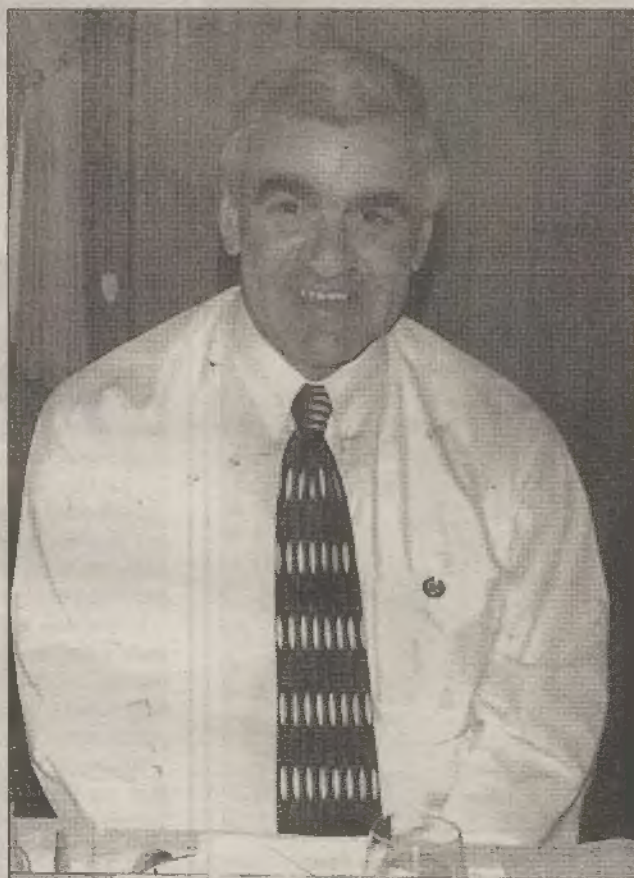
and all importantly coaching and technical support. You will see that the gap between Australia/New Zealand and the Island Countries will close very quickly.

DR: You have held talks with Asian Football Confederation powerbrokers, in a move to strengthen the Oceania region's ties with Asia. Will we see leading Australian teams take part in competitions against top Asian clubs in tournaments such as the Asian Champions League?

We have established a very good and close relationship with the Asian Football Confederation and their President Mohamed Bin Hamman and we are working to develop a program of co-operation at all levels of the game, from grassroots to the very senior levels. And while you talk about an Australian representative, I prefer to refer to an Oceania representative. I can see Oceania countries playing in Asian competitions at all levels in the near future and build on what is already in place, which is an Asian Oceania Cup which has been in place now for 2-3 years.

DR: There's a climate of rebellion in Australian soccer at the moment. Players, former politicians, media, and fans have been quite vocal in their condemnation of Soccer Australia and the way the game has been administered. Is the game moving in the right direction?

I think that what has been happening in Australian soccer is an aberration in terms of the instability that has been around in Soccer Australia for a little while. It is the



Basil Scarsella: OFC President was recently honored on the Queen's Birthday list.



David Scarsella: Basil's son aspiring to become a top flight custodian in the National League.

Board's responsibility to ensure that instability is removed and there is a return to stability. Once this happens we are going to be up for the most exciting ten years in Australian soccer that we have ever had. It seems to me the Lowy led team will take control of Soccer Australia. With that will come Federal Government support and State Government support at all levels. I predict that by 2008 there will be one million kids playing the game in Australia, up from about 600,000 today. I expect that Australia will have a viable and commercial National League, and a very competitive National side.

DR: Your involvement in the game stretches back over 30 years. As a 14 year-old, you joined the Campbelltown City Soccer Club and played 300 plus games, and were a state representative. Were your goalkeeping skills up there with the best of them?

(chuckle...) I wouldn't say I was up there with the best of them. In my ten years playing at State League level, which was before National League, I certainly don't profess to have been there amongst the best, but I enjoyed my time playing at senior level. Playing is the most enjoyable part of being involved in the game and when you can't do that anymore you then move on to either coaching or administration, and I couldn't coach so I moved to administration!

DR: What makes soccer such a popular sport around the world?

It's simple and teaches you experiences in life. It's an education in life. What could happen in a week in a soccer team, you probably wait ten years to experience in life. You experience the thrill of winning, the disappointment of

losing, the experience of having a good game, and then having a bad game and getting dropped.

DR: Is Australia soccer made up of sport lovers rather than soccer lovers?

I think Australian soccer is made up of soccer lovers. They compare the standard of the game here in Australia with what they see on television, which is the best of Europe or England, and they conclude that the standard is not good enough. If we were not soccer connoisseurs, but sports lovers, we would flock to the National League games.

DR: Is the talent drain harming the local game?

There is no question. When you get in excess of 150 players playing in the best Leagues in Europe there is no question that the standard here in Australia suffers.

We need to be realistic and accept that the National League in Australia will at least in the foreseeable future be a feeder competition to the best Leagues in Europe. I don't believe that's a bad thing. If you accept the role of the National League in Australia, then you can live with the fact that our players have got career paths that take them to all corners of the world and no other sport can offer those sorts of opportunities.

DR: What will it take for Australia to be World Soccer Champions?

Direct qualification to the World Cup, and with regular participation in the World Cup it won't be too long before we will be in the final eight, and from there anything can happen. Not too far away an Oceania team will win one of the FIFA competitions.

DR: What soccer league do you rate as the world's best?

The English Premier League is the best in terms of public, corporate, and commercial television attraction.

DR: If you could choose any actor to play you in a movie, who would it be?

Sepp Blatter!

DR: What is your favourite late night snack?

Pizza.

DR: What is the first thing you do when you arrive home?

Get changed into a tracksuit.

DR: How would you spend your last \$50?

Watching an Oceania Nation play in the World Cup final!

TRAGEDY HITS CONFEDS CUP

Cameroon international Marc-Vivien Foe died following Thursday evening's Confederations Cup semi-final against Colombia in Lyon.

Foe, 28, who spent last season on loan at Manchester City from Lyon, collapsed in the second half of the 1-0 win which took his country into the final.

The former West Ham midfielder was rushed to the side of the Stade Gerland pitch where medical staff tried for around 45 minutes to resuscitate the player without success.

In a statement issued ahead of the kick-off in France's semi-final against Turkey in Paris, FIFA said: 'FIFA and the world family of football want to give his family and the Cameroon team their condolences.'

The match in Paris was preceded by the image of Foe on the stadium's big screen and a minute's silence.

Alfred Mueller, FIFA's Swiss medical officer for Lyon, told a news conference this evening:

'After he [Foe] went off the pitch ... we took him to first aid, and the heart stopped in the first aid. The French doctors here did reanimation for 45 minutes and, during this 45 minutes, we had unfortunately absolutely no reaction.'

'This is a very sad day for football, for FIFA and for the player's family. This is all we can say at the moment.'

FIFA also said there would be a post-mortem to determine the circumstances of the death.

Tributes were paid immediately by the player's French club.

'Marc-Vivien Foe will leave us the memory of a charming boy, the incarnation of the joy in life,' Olympique Lyonnais said in a statement on the player's website, which it hosts.

Harry Redknapp, who brought Foe to West Ham in 1998, said: 'It's come as such a shock - he was such a powerful, strong man.'

'Never have I seen someone in better physical condition than Marc - and you couldn't have met a nicer boy than him.'

Foe, a powerful midfielder, played 65 times for his country, including three caps won at World Cup 2002 in matches played against the Republic of Ireland, Germany and Saudi Arabia.

He made 35 appearances while on loan at Maine Road last season, scoring nine goals. City boss Kevin Keegan was

thought to be one of a number of Premiership managers hoping to secure Foe's services for next season.

Manchester City chairman John Wardle revealed the club's devastation at the death of Marc-Vivien Foe.

Foe, who celebrated his 28th birthday last month, was due to decide whether to join City on a full-time basis next week after enjoying a successful season-long loan spell when he scored nine goals in 35 Premiership appearances.



French striker Thierry Henry sheds a tear for his friend Marc Vivien Foe after scoring a goal and dedicating it to him.

'Manchester City Football Club are devastated to hear the tragic news of Marc-Vivien Foe's death this evening,' said Wardle.

'Whilst at City, Marc made an excellent contribution to our successful return to the Premiership and was very highly regarded by his fellow players.'

'He will be sadly missed by his teammates, not just as a player but also as a friend. All of our thoughts are with his family at this time.'



One of the saddest images in world soccer.

PROFILE

Marc-Vivien Foe, who died tragically at the age of 28 following Cameroon's Confederations Cup semi-final against Colombia on June 26 2003, first came to the attention of the English footballing public in the summer of 1998 before the World Cup in France.

The midfielder was strongly linked with a move to Manchester United when at Lens, and it appeared as though it was a done deal until he broke a leg prior to the finals. Sir Alex Ferguson continued to monitor the player's progress but, just as it appeared he was Old Trafford-bound, West Ham United came in for his signature.

The Cameroon international cost the East London club £4million, but without setting the Premiership alight. He stayed at Upton Park for just a season-

Marc-Vivien Foe

Club:	Man City
Shirt Number:	23
Position:	Midfielder
Date of Birth:	May 1, 1975
Birthplace:	Cameroon
Height:	6' 3"
Weight:	NA

and-a-half, scoring once in 38 appearances, before moving to Lyon for £6million.

His career took another blow in 2000 when he contracted Malaria, but he was soon back on form to help Lyon to the French title.

Went to the 2002 World Cup with Cameroon, playing in his country's three games, before flying to Manchester to join City on loan for the season.



Marc-Vivien Foe: The Cameroon star will never be forgotten in the world of football.

THEY CALL HIM TANJU



Tanju Balabanal has been regarded as one of the most deadliest strikers ever to come out from the NSW Winter Super League.

By Mark Stavroulakis

Not many soccer followers would be familiar with the name Tanju Balabanal.

Currently playing for NSW Winter Super League side Sydney Crescent Star, 'Tanj' has caught the attention of many scouts from across Australia and Europe due to his sheer ability to score goals.

Already, the gun striker has amassed 20 goals in fifteen matches for his side, a phenomenal achievement for any player at any standard.

'I've been training really hard in the off-season and it's all paying off for me now. I think when you're in a hot streak everything goes your way and that's what's happening at the moment for me. Overall I want to continue my good run of form right until the finals.'

The 22-year-old kick started his career off in the Fairfield area where so many stars such as Harry Kewell, Paul Okon even Christian Vieri hailed from the area and have now made massive names for themselves.

'I played for both Southern Districts and Marconi in my junior years. I was quite happy there as both clubs gave me the chance to play soccer at the highest level.'

Soon after his experiences at the Stallions, Tanju decided to take an overseas adventure and visit his parents' birthplace in Turkey where the stocky striker signed a youth contract with Fenerbahce.

It was there Balabanal realized what the world game really meant to everyone. The passion Turkish football poses was something new for the gun striker but certainly a year he would never forget.

Having spent a good season in the youth side, his performances were seen by the Turkish U16's coach who selected him in the National Team.

All was going well for the former Stallions star but unfortunately his overseas stint with 'Fener' was cut short due to family reasons.

'At the time I thought it was best to return



home to my family. When I arrived I played for Marconi's reserve side but due to injuries I took a two-year break from the game.'

Many people wondered whether the star would return to the pitch but after his two-year lay-off he returned to football playing for Sydney Crescent Star.

It's been thanks to world renowned coach Yasin Ozdenak that his performances have improved this season.

The former Galatasaray Assistant coach has added many new dimensions towards the young striker's game, something that has been appreciated by Balabanal.

'Yasin has taught me a lot this year. Aspects such as following through and making the correct runs have certainly made my game play that much better.'

Ozdenak has stated that there is a strong connection between him and some European clubs whom he had the pleasure of seeing whilst his time overseas.

Sydney Crescent Star CEO Tony Mandara discovered Tanju's ability three years ago but believed that he would only get better as time wore on.

'Tanju has always been a promising player. I saw him three years ago and had an assumption that this guy would go further in his soccer career. It was only recently that he discovered his top form and I guess it's all thanks to coach Yasin Ozdenak. Tanju knows that there is a good chance he could play in Europe with Yasin's contacts but was told that he needs to prove himself here first. I strongly believe that 'Tanj' can play higher than the National League.'

What does the future hold for Tanju? Well yet another alarming statistic has been the amount of scouts from both the National League and abroad that have come to watch him play at the club's home ground in Lidcombe Oval.

'I've had a few offers from both here and overseas but it's still early days yet. I want to weigh up all my options for the time being but I am leaning towards playing in Europe again. I had that taste when I was 16 and want to do it all again. First things first though, I want to finish the season off with Crescent Star and we'll see from then on.'



Yasin Ozdenak: Former Galatasaray coach currently pulling the strings at Sydney Crescent Star.

New Premier League Commission News

Soccerhul.com reports that Jim Davies is one of the club nominations for the board.

Apparently he is the concept and PR man behind Perth Glory's initial development. Currently he is the marketing consultant for the Glory and was also a member of the NSL steering committee set up earlier this year.

It's possible that John Singleton may be requisitioned to come onto this board and help sort out the current 4 year Ch7 TV deal,

for this is crucial to the success and continued on-going funding of the league.

Lowy and his people have been briefed on the developments and probably consulted prior to this get together, to get tacit approval while the current situation with the SA board is overcome. Crucial ground-work is being formed in the interim, and, it seems, agreement to fund the reform process (about \$500,000) once Lowy gets in.

Speaking of the ramp board, did you know-

1 - Bill Walker's term as director expired last Feb, and

2 - Paul Afkos as an independent director was actually elected to the board instead of being appointed, so technically his position is open to legal challenge as to its validity.

With a ramp board that is jumping on any legal irregularities, how can these glaringly obvious defects be missed?

Are decisions being made by the ramp board un-constitutional?

Meanwhile the ramp board who hailed an agreement with Soccer NSW by saying - "We are both confident that the way forward has been cleared."

For once, soccer people resolved soccer matters" - have withdrawn from participation to call the next meeting and have left it up to the state federations once again, not wanting to be involved in the process.

FORCE STILL ON

In an extraordinary meeting held last Tuesday between the Adelaide City Force board and its members came the good news that the club will stay afloat for next season's National League.

It was no secret that club president Bob D'Ottavi was ready to pull the pin on the venture unless a new backer was found.

Talk about the club heading down to the South Australian Premier League was the more likely option if a new owner was not chosen.

In a heated three-hour meeting at Ram Park, D'Ottavi stated that with the NSL restructuring process in tact, a move to better the club's situation in terms of finance is on the cards.

Within the past four NSL seasons, the Force President has spent more than \$3 million in helping the club survive.

During the meeting, D'Ottavi warned the Force would take a cut on its budget, much less than the \$2 million spent last year.

"The board is conscious of the financial constraints facing the club which will require the adoption of a conservative budget for next season," D'Ottavi said last night. "Many of the clubs in the NSL are facing similar problems."

"The club knows it carries an enormous responsibility in continuing to represent South Australia. Adelaide City will seek the involvement of the widest possible support from the State Government, the SA Soccer Federation and all soccer-loving people", D'Ottavi stated to 'the Advertiser' last week.

The Force is not the first team in deciding to cut its budget for this season.

Last year's Premiers the Olympic Sharks have also approached a similar scenario with its wages for next season - a huge drop to what they had previously

under its four owners.

On the players front, it is known that the Force's three Italian imports Claudio Pelosi, Diego Pellegrini and Gianluca Lagati are almost certain not to fair in next year's squad.

Pelosi has been linked with a scouting job with Serie A giants AS Roma.

Also, it is known that several players are currently off-contract, two being experienced former Soccerroos Aurelio Vidmar and Carl Veart.

At this stage, the club has already lost young Soccerroo Lucas Pantelis to the Parramatta Power and former skipper Ante Kovacevic to South Melbourne.

It's going to be more the state's local talent in the South Australian Premier League that will build up the squad for next season with the club stating that they will not sign players outside the current group.

Finally, D'Ottavi has yet to appoint a coach for his side in next year's competition although Zoran Matic has again been linked in taking the side for another season.



Bob D'Ottavi has again accepted the role as President of the Adelaide City Force side in the NSL next season.

KEWELL DECISION THIS WEEK

Soccerroos forward Harry Kewell's agent says he will make a decision on his future by this week, with a move away from Elland Road almost certain.

Arsenal, Barcelona and Manchester United have all been linked to Kewell, while Leeds has already offered an upgraded deal to extend his contract.

Kewell's manager Bernie Mandic expects the saga to be concluded within the week.

"I stand by what I have said all along, and that is that I expect Harry's future to be sorted out by

the end of the month," he told BBC Sport.

Arsenal is favoured to nab the 24-year-old, although the London club prefers a cash plus player deal involving rising star Jermaine Pennant or Ray Parlour.

Barcelona's interest has cooled with Dutch midfielder Marc Overmars expected to stay with the club following the appointment of Frank Rijkaard as coach.

Old Trafford could make a last ditch bid for Kewell, although the English champions are yet to make any official bid at this stage.



Arsenal are favoured in luring Aussie star Harry Kewell.

Packer and Costanzo to Scotland?

Olympic Sharks midfielder Andy Packer is jetting off to Scotland this week for trials. Now out of contract with the Sharks, Packer hopes he can build on the interest of Millwall last season to win a contract in Scotland.

The powerful midfielder, who can also operate at full-back, had extended trials at Millwall during January's transfer window. Lions boss Mark McGhee was lining up Packer as a replacement for Steven Reid, but with the Irishman remaining at the New Den - and Packer also contracted at the time to the Sharks - Millwall decided

against pushing through the deal.

"Yeah, it was a little disappointing not to win a contract at Millwall," Packer told tribalfutbol.com today. "I think circumstances worked against me."

The pitches were frozen over, so Mr. McGhee couldn't fix a trial match for me, plus was I was still under contract which meant Millwall would have to pay a fee." All that's changed now, with Packer a free agent and hopeful of a move to the SPL.

"I'm flying over next week and will be working with my former Carlton teammate, Dave McPherson,

to get some trials at clubs in the SPL and First Division.

"I feel my game is suited to Scotland and being out of contract I know I have a lot to play for when I get over there." Packer's agent, Lou Sticca, also told tribalfutbol.com: "Andrew was very unlucky at Millwall. They actually extended his trial twice because he looked so good in training, but unfortunately the conditions meant he couldn't show what he could do in a game situation."

"Dave McPherson rates Andrew very highly and we're all keen to see him begin his European career in Scotland. I've fielded enquiries from a few clubs

already and I expect things to hot up once Andrew is in the country next week." Packer won a NSL championship medal with the Sharks a year ago and helped the club to this year's grand final against Perth Glory.

Meanwhile Marconi Stallions defender Angelo Costanzo has also attracted interest from Scotland.

The 27-year-old is believed to be on his way to Patrick Thistle on a one-year loan deal from Marconi. Known as The Jugs, the home ground for Thistle is Firhill Stadium, situated in the North-West of Glasgow, Scotland's largest and most cosmopolitan city.

Costanzo, known to many as one of Marconi's most consistent players in recent years was no doubt wanting an overseas move for quite some time now.



Andrew Packer: Live-wire midfielder is on his way to Scotland for trials.

The Adelaide-born star had trials last season in Italy but this year has opted to start his European career in Scotland.

If successful, Packer and Costanzo will join Patrick Kisnorbo in Scotland who recently signed a deal with Hearts.

KISNORBO TO HEARTS



Patrick Kisnorbo has become the latest Aussie to join the overseas exodus.

HEARTS boss Craig Levein has won the race to sign Australian Patrick Kisnorbo.

The 23-year-old South Melbourne defender arrived in Scotland last weekend with deal set to be completed this week.

The news will come as a disappointment for the three other Scottish clubs who were tracking Kisnorbo - Dunfermline, Dundee United and Inverness Caley Thistle.

Levein will see five-times capped Kisnorbo, who can also play a holding role in midfield, as an important addition to his squad as he prepares for the first round of the UEFA Cup on

September 25.

Kisnorbo should be involved in Hearts' Northern Ireland tour next month. They play Lisburn Distillery on July 19, Ballymena United on July 22 and Linfield on July 26.

It was billed that Patrick would depart Australia after trailing with numerous clubs overseas.

Kisnorbo trialled with English Premier League outfit Leeds United but was told that he was not tall enough for the position of centre back.

South Melbourne will now look towards filling the former Young Soccerroos void in the squad.



Gary Power has become the head of referee development in Asia.

POWER APPOINTED HEAD REFEREE

Former top Australian referee and Soccer Australia Referee's coach Gary Power, has been appointed by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), as their Head of Referee Development.

He is due to take on the appointment from July 1, 2003 initially for six months, as the Qatar Football Federation where he is currently employed, is not keen to lose his services. Power left Soccer Australia in 2001 to take up the Qatar Referee's coach role.

Power's brief is to co-ordinate the referee development programmes for the AFC affiliated countries and he will be based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

There are approximately 380,000 referees in the AFC, which is a staggering 60% of the world's total number of referees.

To help him, he will have four direct staff members under his control, while the AFC has directed each affiliated country to employ one (1) full time development officer to help implement the programmes.

FIORESE BITTER ABOUT BELCONNEN

By Graham Cooke

Belconnen Blue Devils former coach Lino Fiorese says he is shocked and disappointed the way he has been treated by the NSW Premier League club.

"I have still not been told officially that I have been discharged," he said. "What I know is the soccer committee have talked to one coach and that came to nothing, and they are talking to another one, and if that falls through they will talk to someone else, but they won't be talking to me."

"If they had sat me down and said 'we want to change direction, and we don't think you are up to it', that would have been fine, but as it is, they have just been avoiding me."

Fiorese has coached the club since the inception of the summer NSW competition. Belconnen narrowly missed out on the finals in their first season, then twice reached the minor semi-final.

"The really sad thing was that we were getting close to picking up silverware," Fiorese said. "I reckon we could have done it in the coming season or the one after. As it is, with a new coach, new ideas and probably new players, it's back to the drawing board."

Fiorese said he had already begun planning for a succession by seeking to bring former players like

Jason Dunn, George Kulcsar and Marko Perinovic on board in coaching or development roles.

"That would have been the way of the future, now the club will probably go for an old face with old ideas. There won't be any progress," he said.

The coach revealed his relations with the football committee, often rocky, had deteriorated sharply during the past season.

Among the problems he highlighted:

*Players being signed and coaches added to the staff without his approval. An official told him 'Lino, your job is just to win games,' when he complained.

*Pressure on him to select certain players.

*Funds running out for training facilities at the Australian Institute of Sport in the final weeks of the season; Fiorese and the players

paid for them out of their own pockets.

*Allowing young women on the team bus for an away match.

*Refusal to back his suggestion for two team buses for a crucial final game of the regular season at Fairfield.

Fiorese, who came up with the club as a junior in the early 1970s, has been with Belconnen as a senior player, coach of the ACT Premiership side and then

the NSW Premier League squad, for the past nine years. He said he had no plans for a future in football.

"I won't be doing anything in the coming season," he said. "Maybe I'll feel differently in a few months, but at the moment I just want to forget about it."

Fiorese's assistant, Paul Ontong, will also leave the club.

OKON SPEAKS

Socceroos captain Paul Okon has refused to get involved in the political infighting plaguing the game in Australia and remained tight-lipped about his future career path.

In an interview with SBS, the current Leeds midfielder outlined the reasons for his decision not to join seven other former national captains in signing a letter supporting the Frank Lowy led independent board.

"The fact that I'm still a player, it's not really my interest to get involved in the political side of things," he said.

Back in Australia for the off season break after a disappointing season at Elland Road, in which he spent the majority of time on the substitute's bench or out of the squad entirely, Okon feels that watching the game from overseas means that he shouldn't get involved in the current struggle for control of the game at home.

The veteran revealed his vision for the development of the troubled club game,

which he says should be looking towards Asia for a prosperous future. He argues that the game is not big enough in Australia alone.

"The team that wins the grand final gets a little bit of money and that's it," he said.

"I think there needs to be something at the end of it. If we could get into an Asian competition where the top four clubs play against Asian teams I think that is where the money is."

But despite not pledging his name in writing to the Frank Lowy cause, Okon certainly wants the game to progress.

"I'm like everybody else. I want the game to move forward in this country and whoever has the ability to do that I will definitely support."

As for his own future, the 31 year old has been linked with Serie B sides Ancona and Torino, but he would not confirm or deny such rumours. He did admit a return to his Italian roots was very appealing.



Paul Okon: Socceroo Star.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RESULTS 2002/03

PREMIER LEAGUE:

ADELAIDE BLUE EAGLES1
ADELAIDE GALAXY0

METRO STARS1
CROYDON KINGS1

OLYMPIC F.C. 1
MODBURY1

PARA HILLS KNIGHTS1
RAIDERS4

PLAYFORD PATRIOTS0
WHITE CITY WARRIORS2

STATE LEAGUE:

CUMBERLAND UNITED1
CAMPBELLTOWN CITY0

NOARLUNGA UNITED3
PIRATES1

SAISBURY UNITED0
ADELAIDE COBRAS2

WESTERN STRIKERS0
PANTHERS2

PREMIER LEAGUE:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
RAIDERS	17	15	1	1	49	15	34	46
METRO STARS	17	14	3	0	44	14	30	45
WHITE CITY WARRIORS	17	7	3	7	29	22	7	24
ADELAIDE CITY	16	7	3	6	22	19	3	24
ADELAIDE BLUE EAGLES	17	7	3	7	15	22	-7	24
CROYDON KINGS	17	6	4	7	25	30	-5	22
ADELAIDE GALAXY	17	6	3	8	19	20	-1	21
OLYMPIC F.C.	17	5	5	7	29	37	-8	20
ENFIELD CITY	16	5	4	7	26	31	-5	19
MODBURY	17	5	1	11	14	27	-13	16
PARA HILLS KNIGHTS	17	4	2	11	23	34	-11	14
PLAYFORD PATRIOTS	17	2	4	11	21	45	-24	10



VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2002/03

ROUND 18

Sat, 28 June, 3:00pm

Bentleigh Greens SC1 Altona East Phoenix SC0
(Kakos P)

Sun, 29 June, 3:00pm

Fawkner Blues SC0 St Albans Saints SC1
(Own Goal)
Altona Magic SC1 Frankston Pines SC2
(Waite N, Trebbia L)
Essendon Royals SC2 Bulleen Zebras SC1
(Simsek K, Bazzano F) (Vucinic D)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
1. Altona Magic SC	18	11	3	4	35	19	36
2. Preston Lions SC	17	11	3	3	33	19	36
3. Green Gully Cavaliers SC	17	10	4	3	38	13	34
4. Essendon Royals SC	18	10	3	5	25	22	33
5. Frankston Pines SC	18	8	5	5	37	26	29
6. Whittlesea Stallions SC	17	9	1	7	27	26	28
7. St Albans Saints SC	18	8	3	7	22	22	27
8. Bulleen Zebras SC	18	6	4	8	30	32	22
9. Fawkner Blues SC	18	6	4	8	19	31	22
10. Bentleigh Greens SC	18	5	5	8	23	31	20
11. Altona East Phoenix SC	18	2	3	13	17	33	9
12. Port Melb Sharks SC	17	0	2	15	14	46	9

ROUND 19

Fri, 4 July, 8:15 PM

Port Melb Sharks SC vs. Altona Magic SC

Sun, 6 July, 3:00 PM

Frankston Pines SC vs. Fawkner Blues SC

Preston Lions SC vs. Bentleigh Greens SC

St Albans Saints SC vs. GG Cavaliers SC

Altona East Phoenix SC vs. Essendon Royals SC

Mon, 7 July, 8:15 PM

Bulleen Zebras SC vs. Whittlesea Stallions SC



Action in the Victorian Premier League
(Photo By Steven Grey)



Queensland Lions Soccer Club

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133 Pine Road, Richlands. QLD.

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Premier League Round 18 By Glenn Davis

THE GAP IS BACK!

By Glenn Davis

An upset 2-nil win by cellar dwellers The Gap over Souths breathed life back into a despairing Ipswich Knights in the Brisbane premier league relegation battle.

Ipswich remains second last on 13 points after a similar 2-nil home defeat by Wynnum last Friday.

With North Star also picking up a surprise point in a 3-all draw with Queensland Lions, the Knights' chances of avoiding a relegation playoff looked forlorn after their eighth loss of the season.

The Gap still remain anchored at the bottom of the table with eight points, just five points adrift of second last placed Ipswich on 13 points while Souths stay three points further ahead.

Souths coach Peter Bannon knew he was in for a tough night against The Gap who got off to a dream start with both goals coming inside the first ten minutes.

"It was a soft start but to their credit The Gap has strengthened their team and everybody in the bottom half of the table could be in the mix all of a sudden if they continue to win a few more

games," Bannon said.

"We never looked like breaking them down when they were camped on the edge of the area all night.

"Their win wasn't really a great surprise as they had to beat someone sooner or later and it happened to be us."

The Gaps' win was only their second of the season after downing Brisbane City in the opening round of the season.

Bannon was more infuriated by his own sides deficiencies than losing to The Gap.

"I get more annoyed when players don't follow instructions. It was evident after ten minutes what their intentions were and we didn't adapt.

"The ball was out of the park more often than in."

Ipswich faces a real battle to avoid a relegation play-off after surrendering to Wynnum at Bundamba.

After a scoreless first half, Wynnum's Pedram Salami broke the deadlock just after the break finishing off a great Wynnum movement.

Nick Seeley did the early hard work for the opening goal playing a ball into Josh Rose who whipped in a cross to the far post for Salami to score.

Aaron Thiesfield put the sealer on the game with 15 minutes to go.

Wynnum coach Kevin Meacock was

delighted to come away from Ipswich with three points to extend their recent strong run.

"We jump to sixth now and we're well placed to make the finals if we keep winning," Meacock said.

"I expected a physical game which it was. They're a tough side but they don't seem to have a goal scorer.

"Hopefully now we can claw our way back up near the top somewhere after a mini form slump early in the season."

"We haven't loss now for six games."

Meacock believes Wynnum's next three games may decide whether they are serious finals contenders when they play Toowoomba away, Taringa at home and Lions away.

North Star could well value their point off Lions by season end.

North Star never led Lions but showed a ton of fighting spirit despite being up against a ten-man Lions for more than half of the game.

Lions led 1-nil after 20 minutes before the game turned when Lions' defender Darren Sime was sent off for a professional foul when he handballed a goal bound shot.

With Sime given his marching orders, North Star got back to 1-all when Michael Brockwell scored from the subsequent penalty.

Lions went head 2-1 with ten men midway through the second half before North Star levelled again after a 30-metre screamer from defender Steve Melville.

"Normally Steve can't hit the side of a barn but he hit it well for his second goal of the season," said North Star coach Ken Swan.

Lions' ever reliable scorer Greg Di Losa put his side in front 3-2 in the dying stages before the never-say-die attitude of North Star struck again for the 3-all equaliser from Shaun Blackman five minutes from time.

"It was a great point but we can't battle like that against the top team and not come out next week and not get the points off Rochdale," Swan said.

"In the first 15 minutes when Lions had a full deck they knocked the ball around well.

"They've got such a great side even with ten men you'd expect them to be confident of still winning.

"But they had their chances three times to win the game but we kept coming back and overall a draw was a fair result."

In the top half of the table, the battle for second spot remain unresolved after a 1-all draw between Taringa Rovers and Brisbane City.

Pine Rivers cemented fourth place with a hard fought 2-1 win over fifth placed Rochdale.



Palm Beach have been missing the services of key striker Peter Grierson.

Queensland Academy product Dean Peltohaka gave Pine Rivers a 1-nil lead at half time drilling a low shot hard under the young Rochdale keeper five minutes from the interval.

Ever reliable Jon Weatherby then struck a shot which took a deflection from 18 metres to level the score 1-all

for Rochdale ten minutes into the second half.

Pine Rivers grabbed the winner ten minutes from time when Barry Browett capitalised on a poor clearance from Rochdale's keeper curling a shot from near the sideline into the top corner for a spectacular winner.

Pine Rivers coach Clayton Koch said the win mirrored the first round result between the two sides.

"It was very similar to the first round and either team could have won," Koch said.

"They had a two on one just before we scored our second but Weatherby missed the chance to win it for Rochdale.

"Rochdale played very well and dominated possession but we had the better scoring chances."

Palm Beach continue to ignore a mounting injury toll and moved to fifth after a 1-nil win over Toowoomba.

Striker Russell Miner ran at the Toowoomba defence 35 metres out before side stepping a defender to slow him the game's only goal from 22 metres.

"We had the better scoring chances and deserved to win," said coach Bob Hamilton.

"It keeps us in touch with the top four and we've still got to play Taringa and Brisbane City at home and they're just ahead of us on the table."

Hamilton's side has been devastated with injuries in recent week and were again missing national league striker Peter Grierson.

"Peter missed this match and we've got Daniel Fung' out with a broken ankle, Luke Sleight with a serious knee injury and Andy Hatlin is doubtful to play for the remainder of the season," Hamilton said.

Premier League 2003

As at Round: 18

Premier League: Gap 2 (Fitzpatrick, Wilson) d Souths 0, Pine Rivers 2 (Peltohaka, Browett) d Rochdale 1 (Weatherby), North Star 3 (Blackman, Melville, Brockwell) v Qld Lions 3 (Drinkeld, Di-Losa, Lowndes), Palm Beach 1 (Miner) d Toowoomba 0, Wynnum 2 (Thiesfield, Salami) d Ipswich Knights 0, Taringa 1 (Kuyper) v Brisbane City (Kumar) 1

	P	W	L	D	PTS
QLD LIONS	15	11	2	2	35
TARINGA	15	8	4	3	27
BRIS.CITY	15	8	4	3	27
PINE RIVERS	15	8	6	1	25
PALM BEACH	15	7	6	2	23
WYNNUM	15	6	5	4	22
ROCHEDALE	15	6	7	2	20
TOOWOOMBA	15	5	5	5	20
NORTH STAR	15	5	7	3	18
SOUTHS UTD	15	5	9	1	16
IPSWICH KN	15	3	8	4	13
THE GAP	15	2	11	2	8

Div 1: Easts 3 d Uni Qld 0, Mitchelton 3 d Newmarket 2, Mt Gravatt 1 v Olympic 1, Rocklea 2 v Peninsula 2, Redlands 3 d Albany Creek 1, Capalaba 0 v Beenleigh 0

ROUND 19 FIXTURES

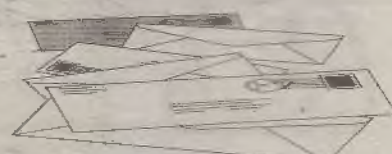
SATURDAY JULY 26

T'WMBA RAIDERS	v	THE GAP	5:30PM	ST. TOOW
PINE RIVERS UTD	v	TARINGA ROVERS	7:00PM	W. A. Pk
NORTH STAR	v	IPSW KNIGHTS	7:00PM	O'Call. Pk
PALM BEACH SHARKS	v	BRISBANE CITY	7:00PM	Palm. Bch

SUNDAY JULY 27

QUEENSLAND LIONS	v	ROCHEDALE ROV	4:00PM	Lions SD
WYNNUM	v	SOUTHS UTD	4:00PM	Carm.Pk

Letters to the Editor



WHERE'S LOWY?



Frank Lowy

Dear Sir,

After months of speculating when the Frank Lowy take over would take place I can't believe that nothing has happened since.

Talk about Lowy taking the code for quite some time has yet to unveil any new ideas for the promotion of the game.

At the moment we still have Soccer Australia running the show but for how long?

Can't these people realize that the future isn't with them, but with real business men.

How long must we wait to see the salvation of soccer in this country – it really is beyond the joke.

Dominic Zagari,
Wollongong, NSW.



Dear Sir,

Just writing to say how good it's been to see NSW soccer escalate to the heights of your paper.

The 8-page spread accompanied by the colour pages it's been receiving has been great.

Will we see more colour pages dedicated to SOCCER NSW's? Perhaps a colour page spread on the game of the week in the Winter Super League.

Keep up the good work ABSW!

Tim Stevenson,
Penrith, NSW.

TOO MUCH PUBLICITY

Dear Sir,

What is the go with David Beckham grabbing all the headlines in his move to Spanish Giants Real Madrid?

He isn't as good as what people think he is and I think that in that team full of superstars, Becks will just be another face in the crowd.

His style isn't suited to Spain, I think it was a big mistake leaving England and thought he could have done better at another Premier League club.

You've got the likes of Ronaldinho, Saviola, Aimar etc – these players are worth their weight all full of skill and ability to make the game theirs.



David Beckham

Long balls and crosses though leaves much to the imagination.

The headline's in England should have read "A 'REAL' BAD MOVE"

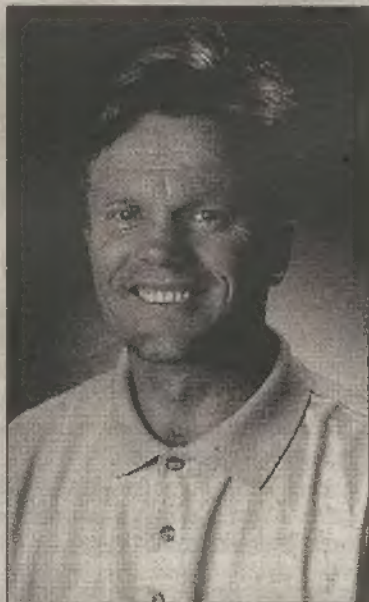
From the email
Bill Tolson

CULINA'S SERVICES

Dear Sir,

After reading your feature story on former coach Branko Culina I was dumbfounded as to why he has yet to secure a job in the National League again?

His credentials speak for itself, he's been there and done that at sides where



Branko Culina

he's brought up youth and side's where money was splurged everywhere.

It's good to see new youth coaches given a go in next year's competition however having experienced coaches on the outer does not serve the game well.

I heard Adelaide City Force and the Strikers are still looking for a new coach? Why not Branko?

The game now-a-days is heavily relying on youth though they must not cut out the veteran stars in our game.

Sam Provas,
Dulwich Hill, NSW.

SPIRITED FEELING

Dear Sir,

I just want to express my delight towards the Northern Spirit camp who last season did themselves proudly in gaining a top six entry.

As a loyal supporter of the club I was over the moon when the side made the final six something many so called experts thought it wouldn't be done.

I thought the lads played with full Spirit, credit to their name!

The likes of Hutchinson, McDermott, Tobin, Ferguson, Petrie, Henderson, Watts all gave the side some much needed experience alongside our youth stars.

What club this year took the gamble of using many youngsters in their debut season like the Spirit – no one.

Coach Lawrie McKinna took out the club's coach of the year, and rightly so – he deserved it!

All I can say is let's hope the fans realise the Spirit mean business and that more fans come out in force in next year's competition.

Go the Spirit!!!

Shawn McNally,
Artamon, NSW.

SIX HOURS – TOO MUCH

Dear Sir,

This isn't a letter against SBS because I regard them as the best station in terms of soccer in Australia however I'd like to know why and for how long will the station keep a six-hour soccer show for?

Let's face it. Not many people can sit down for six hours and view the whole program, I think the old approach on a Saturday afternoon and something on Sunday was the best option.

Having all the world news on football showcase itself on Saturday while having a round-up of local issues on Sunday would make up for the tireless six hour show.

Credit to the boys over at SBS who have done a great job in keeping the sport alive but just my small gripe on the amount of hours screened.

Maurice Wilson,
Kingsgrove, NSW.

NO MORE PLEASE

Dear Sir,

How many more players will the Olympic Sharks lose for next season's competition?

I can't believe the club has let players such as Jade North, Wayne Shroff and Tommy Pondeljak leave the club?

I understand the club has hit a financial snag but surely the new people who wish to take charge of the squad had or has the intention of signing quality players.

As yet I have yet to hear who is com-



ing to the Sharks, just many rumours which I have read or heard from various people.

What a turn around it's been for the club.

Being the best club in Australia for the past two seasons to becoming a club with a strict budget and no players to buy as of yet!

I hope the fans know what their in for next season – I'm sorry to say that success won't be seen unless big players are snapped up.

Jim Hantzis,
Sans Souci, NSW.

DON'T GIVE UP!

Dear Sir,

I would just like to write a quick letter regarding all the wasted talent in soccer in this country.

Being a soccer player myself I am 23 years old, my whole life I dreamed of becoming a professional soccer player, but some where at the age of 18-21 years old it all went wrong, I discovered girls, going out, partying and began to lose my way.

I was no longer able to watch a game of soccer on TV with out being bitter. Around a year ago I made a strong decision to get back into it, I have since been training my guts out and am looking to break into the NSL, it is not to late if the dream is still in your heart.

I write this letter to ABSW because I know of several players in the same position that have all the talent in the world but just lost their faith.

Just a reminder to all those players out there, don't give up, if it's in your heart, then it's in your reach!

From the email
Fabian De Marco

SOCCER SELFISHNESS

Dear Sir,

I am writing to support the government enquiry and findings into the reform of soccer in this country and I wish to add my voice to the overwhelming public show of support for this reform process.

After reading the Crawford Report's Independent evaluation of soccer governance, I strongly urge the Soccer Australia Board to adopt all 53 recommendations of the Crawford Report for the sake of the game.

The Soccer Community is demanding a swift transition of power from the current Soccer Australia Board to the Frank Lowy led Board. The public will not accept anything less than these reforms taking place swiftly and without hesitation, politicking or compromise.

I therefore call for the remaining Soccer Australia Commissioners to resign immediately, and to not oppose the swift transition of power to the Frank Lowy team.

The three remaining Soccer Australia commissioners have lost touch with the supporters of the game. They don't represent the supporters and players of the game. The game has been plunged to a new low due to their administration ineptitude and their own personal agenda and gratification.

I personally, as a player and manager of my local soccer club, am going to start a petition within my local soccer

community which will be delivered to you asking that the remaining Soccer Australia board members to resign to allow the reform package to continue.

I ask fans and supporters to write emails and letters to Soccer Australia and to start petitions urging the board to not stuff this up but to provide a quick transition to reform through to Frank Lowy led team.

I call on soccer players and supporters to show that we do matter in this game!! It's not right for the soccer administrators to treat us and the game like this!!

For the sake of the game, Soccer Australia board please step aside immediately to make way for the reform package.

Stephen Briant,
Player of Earlwood Wanderers
Premier League 4's team

BE WEARY OF THE STRIKERS

Dear Sir,

I think amidst the problems many National League clubs are facing at the moment one must say that nothing's been said about the Brisbane Strikers.

After reading the article in your paper dated 24-6-03 "Strikers tell players: 'We Want You'", I've come to the conclusion that they could be the dark horse of the competition next year.

It's stated that most of the Strikers board are keen on signing all of the players from last season excluding two players.

I think it's due time that the lads from Brisbane cause a stir in the league once more.

The coach has yet to be announced but we could well see a good promising squad.

I hope that all the negativity in the game can be wiped with decent performances from clubs like the Strikers.

From the email
Shane Manning – Runcorn QLD.

BLOCK AGREED

Dear Sir,

In response to the 'Block Says' 24-6-03, I totally agree with the fact that many of the players now-a-days are paid more than what they do on the pitch.

Many stars now are simply about how much money they can make from the game. Gone are the days of the old fashioned player who donned on the normal black boots, suited in a normal soccer jersey and playing for the club.

Not many players are after the heart on the sleeve action any more – it's a sad fact but true.

All this talk about Beckham going to Real Madrid for an unbelievable amount really makes me wonder about him.

He's a great player no doubt, though Real have used him as a huge selling point for the club.

I thought Daniel Kuziow best summed it up himself by saying "A jersey is no longer a manifestation of the passion that runs through a player's blood".

A nice sentence nonetheless, I fear for the future of the game and its players – many youngsters now grow up to believe that money comes before passion – a poor ingredient for disaster.

Antonio Manconi,
Castle Hill, NSW.

SOCCERWOMAN

BY JANENE MAR

FORMAN AND BLACK EUROPEAN RUNNERS-UP

Australians Alison Forman and Sharon Black and their Danish club Fortuna Hjørring finished as runners-up in the UEFA Women's Cup after Swedish outfit Umea IK proved themselves worthy champions with a 3-0 win in last week's second leg final in Hjørring.

Needing a three-nil win to come back from their 1-4 loss in the away leg of the final, this match was always going to be an uphill battle for the underdogs Fortuna. Umea again finished the job in classic

style for a 3-0 victory to claim the mantle of European champions with a 7-1 aggregate score.

Umea all but killed off any hope of a Fortuna revival when they scored from the penalty spot after just three minutes when star striker Hanna Ljungberg was felled in the box. The growing deficit deflated the home side, although they were unlucky not to equalise shortly after. Umea, holding such a comfortable lead, continued to show their class with Ljungberg at the forefront of the attack, and doubled their lead in the 34th minute. Fortuna still never gave up and attacked whenever possible

Fortuna looked more positive in their play after the break and were able to compete on a more even keel. Seven minutes in, a Sharon Black strike from close range was saved by the legs of the Umea keeper. The Swedes however continued in their attacking vein and scored a third in the 70th minute from the boot of Ljungberg. Both Alison Forman and Sharon Black played the full ninety minutes.

To have made it to the final was an achievement in itself for first-timers Fortuna. Few would have predicted the Danish to make it to the last two in Europe, but they certainly made a name for themselves after upsetting the champi-

ons of both Norway and England along the way.

The beauty of playing in Europe, the cultural home of football, is having the opportunity to play in this competition, the only continental championship for club teams. To be able to aspire to travel around Europe and play against the best clubs there are. For a team from little Belarus to have the chance to play against some of the world's best players from Sweden, Norway, Germany, or France is just fantastic.

And it continues to expand. Next time around, its third year of existence, forty-one countries will compete, up from thir-

ty-four. It can only improve football in Europe, at every level of the game, but in particular lift the aspirations of the smaller nations.

NATIONALS NOT FAR AWAY

The Qantas National Talent Identification Championships - Women's U16 and U18 - are just around the corner, scheduled for 12-19 July at Valentine Sports Park in Sydney.

Ten teams are contesting the junior division, with eight to do battle in the youth age group

SA ACTING CEO SLAMS EXCUSES USED BY FIFA

Soccer Australia Acting Chief Executive, Stefan Kamasz, poured scorn on suggestions that the disgraceful decision by the FIFA Executive to deny the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) direct qualification to the 2006 World Cup was provoked by the current situation within Soccer Australia.

"This outrageous reversal is nothing more than a politically motivated decision designed to appease the powerful South American countries who were aggrieved that they had lost half a place following the last World Cup," said Mr Kamasz.

"To use the recent problems in Australia as a means of justifying this decision is incorrect and immoral

"When FIFA made its original decision late in 2002

to provide the OFC with direct qualification, Soccer Australia had just experienced mass defections from its board and management, it was facing an ASIC inquiry into its solvency, a government inquiry was being undertaken and the company was facing a projected cash shortfall of over \$4 million. If FIFA had any concerns it would have acted then.

"Compare this with the current situation. FIFA knows full well that Soccer Australia is now profitable and has turned around its financial position. FIFA knows that Soccer Australia satisfied ASIC's solvency concerns, that the Crawford Report was delivered and that the Frank Lowy Interim Board will be elected to office on 19 July to commence reform under that Report.

"To suggest that the purported 'disarray' is a factor in FIFA's about-turn is totally untrue and a slur on everyone responsible for the change in this company's fortunes during the past six months. Soccer Australia is in a far superior position now than when the FIFA decision was made in December 2002," added Mr Kamasz.

Mr Kamasz also added that the performance of New Zealand in the Confederations Cup was a convenient lame excuse for the highly political and disrespectful decision.

He concluded, "Sadly, this decision has demonstrated quite effectively that the art of politics is alive and well at FIFA.

We must now ensure that the OFC is not further

dumped on when FIFA determines the final process of qualification. We need to ensure that the OFC winner is placed in a group situation and not required to play a sudden death 180 minute cup final to qualify for the World Cup Finals."

In December 2002 FIFA President Sepp Blatter stated, "It was important to make sure Oceania finally had direct access to the World Cup. We have corrected an implicit injustice."

Yesterday, UEFA President Lennart Johansson said, "If you make a mistake you must correct it." Where is the implicit justice that President Blatter was talking about only a few months ago.

PREMIERSHIP BIZARRIO

Nige and Derek here from BananaTV's Premiership Bizarrio. Every week we give you our views and opinions on what's going on, and off, in the English Premiership.

At this time of the off season, in the good old days of spend and spend squillions more, was a transfer market driven by the tabloids papers. The papers would make up a story. Some clueless director would like the story when he glanced at in The Sun as he pawed his way to the Page 3 girl. All of a sudden the combined GDP of 5 African countries had been spent. Now it is 2003 and those directors cannot afford to take action based on The Sun's recommendations.

Now they attempt to loan players out to other clubs to get them off the payroll. As of this week in the Premiership there have been 34 players released (not including Becks, OBE) and not 1 fee was received. 22 players have been signed with 5 of those players being bought for a total of 14.6 million quid. The biggest spenders so far being, by some miracle, Spurs, with a massive 7 mil being lashed out for an unknown Portuguese striker. That will make Harry Kewell the bargain buy of the century if The Arse get him for the same price.

The Premiership at the moment is like an episode of Seinfeld, something about nothing that includes the exploits of a girl and his missus. Yes, Becks, boring bloody Becks. Even though we would like to turn Bizarrio into a Becks, OBE free zone, due to the dire financial situation of 95% of the clubs in the Premiership, the only show in town is Becks, OBE. He is at the centre of

everything. Little Dave, who does not officially sign until July 2, has already started to hijack the Spanish capital. It seems that he has already been involved in a conspiracy with the decapitation of 'unsuccessful' gaffer Vinnie Del Bostick. 2 time Kings of Europe, 3 time Spanish Champs, blending of numerous massive egos and player respect were not enough for the coach-driver look-a-like to keep the job.

Banana TV



Premiership Bizarrio

The smoking gun here is the rumour that Vinnie didn't want to sign the Beckys and his massive media machine that comes with him. And that's all it took. Who is the new gaffer? Sir Fergie's sidekick Carlos "I Love Sir Fergie & I Love Becks" Queros. His first salvo to the media as coach of the Spanish giants was that Dave need not worry about battling Figo for a place as he loved Becks and will be around his gaff for tea and crumpets as soon as he gets in town. Figo must be spewing, how events have transpired over the last week.

We're sure that Bobby Carlos, ZZ, Ronny and Raul are at Figo's hacienda swigging tequila, watching DVD's of One Hundred Hideous Tackles starring Vinnie Jones, and sharpening their studs for the

first kick around. If Becks and Posh think they can swan into town and turn Madrid into Costa Del Beckingham, we reckon they are going to have a fistfight on their hands. We also feel that Posh should be the one in that fistfight because with all those sessions under the tanning lamp, her face will be like leather. She would also handle herself better than sarong wearing, hair braiding, big girl Becks ever could.

However, he has an alibi to all this "Mayhem in Madrid"; he wasn't even in town. Dave has been enhancing his reputation with screaming Japanese school girls, trying desperately to repair his shot to pieces ego after the tabloid mauling Becks and Posh received on a disastrous self-promotional tour of the U.S. Headlines such as "Don't Come Beck" in the N.Y Post "Go Beck Home" and "Strictly B-List" kicked Becks right in the OBE.

Their MTV appearance was axed as they both had a shocker trying to lip-sync the speech, because between them they could not put a sentence together. Even the Fashion Police got in on the kicking. Now, no number Becks, will return to Beckingham Palace to pack up the gold-plated hair dryer and 25,000 hair products and shift shop to Spain. Dave and Vicky have been re-assured by Steve McManamanamanaman's missus that there is plenty of shopping to be done and the markets are gorgeous.

So Becks, with pockets stuffed full of cash and medal on his chest, is ready to shop 'til he drops. Meanwhile Figo and the boys are growing big moustaches, smoking stogie cigars and waiting to see what hairstyle the Gringo brings to the first training session. Let the Battle of the

Bernabeau commence!

See you next week.
Premiership Bizarrio

To catch Nige and Derek on

Premiership Bizarrio, their internet TV show, go to <http://www.bananatv.com>

And click on Premiership Soccer. New episodes added each week. Don't miss it.

THE BLOCK SAYS

By Daniel Kuzlow

Our very own national league is as active in the off season as many of the larger European leagues but sadly this is where the similarities end.

We have seen two of Perth Glory's better players move for a hell of a lot of money to a club whose precise future is still to be decided and another three move over to the west after their club decided to take up a part time stance.

In essence what Australian soccer is creating is a monopoly for a few select clubs. It would not surprise me if a club such as the Glory would generate as much profit as some 75% of the remaining 12 NSL clubs combined. And sadly this trend is only getting worse. Now with the Olympic Sharks taking up a part time training regime, the Glory has no serious competition.

For the past two seasons, Perth and the Sharks led the way and have done so quite easily over their opponents. They have appeared in the last two Grand Finals and have each snared a Minor Premiership in those years as well. But

with Olympic reverting back to amateurism in the upcoming year, the Glory can quite comfortably sit back and wait for the titles to lazily come their way.

While the Parramatta Power have tried to go with the Glory in terms of wages and class players, they do not have the steadfast confidence that the West Australian club have. True they made the final series last season, but they failed to prove themselves finishing fourth after earlier in the campaign promising so much.

Simply buying players will not ensure success. The Glory have been the premier club in West for a great number of years and as such have developed a loyal fan base and more importantly a distinct playing style, while the Power still only four years old, have yet to develop their own traits that would attract a bunch of devotees on a regular level.

So while on the surface the transfers of Pondeljak and Colosimo may look to be similar to that of Beckham and Co, what really is happening is the slow death of the game. We must breed a culture where teams remain equal for the overall good of the game.

Victorian Chronicles

By Brendan Davis

KNIGHTS TURN FIFTY

When the Croatian men in Australia first formed their soccer club, Melbourne Croatia some 50 years ago, few would have expected this club to develop into one of Australia's best and most successful teams.

Fast Forward fifty years to the Melbourne Knights where history details their successes, on and off the park.

Championships are the ultimate success, Knights have two of these. But few clubs have produced the calibre of players that have succeeded at the top echelons of European football clubs as have the Knights.

KNIGHTS OF PASSION

Melbourne's team of the century

Peter Blasby

George Hannah	Andrew Marth	Steve Kokoska	Steve Horvat
Joe Biskic (vc)	Jim McKay	Horst Raul (c)	Tommy Cunningham
Mark Viduka	Billy Vojtek		

BENCH: John Gardiner, Hammy McMeechan, Ken Murphy, Joe Simunic, Danny Tiatto, Mirko Kovacek (goalkeeper)
COACH: Michael Kis

Knights Hall Of Fame List

Mark Viduka is the best known with his current form being sensational. Steve Horvat, Joe Simunic and Danny Tiatto together with so many others.

The Knights full team of the century is:

Team of the Century

Peter Blasby (gk)
George Hannah
Andrew Marth
Steve Kokoska
Steve Horvat
Joe Biskic (vc)
Jim McKay
Horst Raul (c)
Tommy Cunningham
Mark Viduka
Billy Vojtek
Hammy McMeechan
Ken Murphy
Joe Simunic
John Gardiner
Danny Tiatto
Mirko Kovacek (gk)
Michael Kis (coach)

DOBSON RETURNS TO KNIGHTS

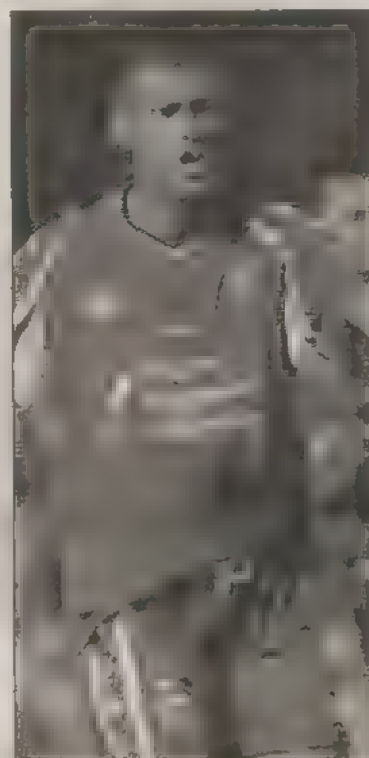
Successful coach Ian Dobson was appointed as coach of the Melbourne Knights for next season.

He coached the Knights to their second championship in 1996.

Vlado Vanis, another former coach was widely tipped to land the position but Knights team manager Miro Kustura said Dobson was favoured just ahead of

Heidelberg United coach Vlado Vanis, who also coached the Knights previously

"It was a very hard decision but in the end we wanted the most experienced coach and the choice was Ian Dobson," Kustura said.



Con Boutsianis could be donning the South Melbourne jersey once again next season.

"We have a very young side and Ian was the better proposition," he said.

It is expected that Dobson will coach Green Gully till the end of the Victorian Premier League season and during the finals. "We don't have a problem with that," Kustura said.

The Knights will now turn their attention to the appointment of a youth development coach.

SOUTH COMMENCE PREPARATION

On Wednesday night, South Melbourne coach Stuart Munro will take charge of the teams first training session for the new season.

Several players including Steve Panaopolous are currently abroad, but a large number of new faces including Ante Kovacevic, the 29 year old defender recruited from Adelaide City.

And as ABSW goes to press, word from Albert Park is controversial striker Con Boutsianis is a required player and will be wearing the blue and white shirt - this time for the whole season.

SOUTH PRESENTATION NIGHT

South annual ball and presentation night will be held on Friday July 4 at the magnificent 9 Darling Street

If supporters require tickets, they are available from the club on 9645 9797

END OF CBA

With the financial year end passing the 13 NSL Clubs will breathe a collective sigh of relief with the hared PFA's Collective Bargaining Agreement having expired.

Weak Club management has previous capitulated to the demands of the PFA - to the considerable detriment of the code and the many players vying for contracts.

Fortunately clubs will now be able to manage their own affairs with many more aspiring youngsters likely to enjoy their first taste of NSL football given the clubs will be free of the shackles of this crazy imposition. This in turn may produce the next Harry Kewell.



NEWS FROM THE NATIONS CAPITAL

By Graham Cooke

BELCONNEN BACK COACH

Belconnen United's Tony Head became the first coaching casualty of the ACT Premiership season when he was replaced by former team boss Stephen Forshaw during the week.

The club committee asked Forshaw to take over the team, second from the bottom in the Premiership with just one win in eight league matches, last Tuesday morning, and he immediately agreed.

Despite a successful pre-season, when United reached the final of the Federation Cup, the club's Premiership run started badly with a loss to newly promoted Cooma, and never recovered.

Recent form has been disastrous with a loss to then bottom club ANU, followed by an 8-0 thrashing from championship-chasing Gungahlin Juventus.

Despite these reverses Forshaw said his initial training run with the team revealed more talent than he had first thought.

"I think we can turn this around," he said. "We have to become more intense and gain in confidence, and there is only one thing to produce that - results."

To that end he is bringing Belconnen Blue Devils' players Adrian Dowling and Clinton Larfield into the squad, along with young defender David Reis, who played for the ACT Academy of Sport in the National Youth League over the summer. "They are signed and ready to go," he said.

Forshaw has been with Belconnen since 1980 as a player, captain and coach. He was in charge when United won the major and minor premierships and the Federation Cup in 1990, but in recent years has pre-fetted a role out of the limelight.

This winter he has been coaching United's State League Division 1 team and says he will not desert them "I'll see the season out doing both jobs," he said.

"I know the committee probably came to me because I am on the spot and they did not want to disrupt the under-19 program by pulling one of the coaches out, but that's okay

"I just want to do my best for Belconnen - I'm passionate about the club and I guess I always will be"

USLJEHRKA BUZZING

Canberra Deakin's suspended super striker, Zyonco Usljebrka, is fretting through his four-game ban on the sidelines, anxious to get back to doing what he likes best - scoring goals

The former Sydney United player copped the sentence after being sent off for the second time this season. "Both times against Cooma and both times involving the same player, I'm going to be very careful in future," he said

"Even so, I think it's a bit harsh. In this competition four games is almost a quarter of the season

Usljebrka has been something of a wanderer since beginning his senior career with South Coast United. He has played in the Victorian Premier League, the Illawarra competition, the first divisions of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and for Sydney United, before coming to Canberra.

His career highlight was the spell in the NSL. "I used to barrack for United as a little boy, so to play in the side was a dream come true," he said

"But we finished last the season I was there and things went bad. The money was no good, so I decided to come to Canberra."

Now 29 he believes he will hang up his boots in the National Capital, but not before scoring a few more goals. "I finished top scorer with 39 league and cup goals last season and had 14 up to my suspension this time," he said.

"I don't know if I'll be top scorer again, but I aim to knock in a few more before the season's out."

He tips Deakin to win the league this year and, rather surprisingly, believes Tuggeranong United, rather than Gungahlin Juventus, or Canberra Olympic, will be the team that runs them closest.



ACT WRAP

By Graham Cooke

Tuggeranong United coach Jimmy Bland praised the patience and growing maturity of his young side after they had waited almost an hour to open the scoring in their ACT Premiership game with bottom-placed University of Canberra on Saturday.

United went on to win 3-0 to keep the pressure on the leaders, but it could so easily have been an afternoon of frustration for the team from Canberra's south

For the first 45 minutes the University's battling style was rewarded with good fortune as Peter Curwin headed off the line and goalkeeper Tim Davies turned a powerful drive from Adrian Anderson round the post

"I never thought we were in danger, it was a matter of being patient," Bland said afterwards. "The trouble with many young teams playing a side at the bottom of the table is that they expect to be two up in the first five minutes, and when it doesn't happen they lose concentration

"It was a case of coaching minds rather than bodies and it worked for us."

With 59 minutes gone one of Loric David's elegant crosses found Rory McCormack in position to force the ball over the line

A long ball into the penalty area from Josh Williams picked out David at the far post for United's second, while the third was a comedy of errors, although the University weren't smiling.

An incident off the ball left a group of players from both sides more intent on pushing and shoving each other than watching play. Not so substitute Matt Menser, who had come off the bench for a 15-minute run to test an ankle injury,

He raced on to the ball, took it round the oncoming but exposed Davies and with an eye to theatre threw himself forward to complete a diving header into the unguarded net.

The University defenders protested long and hard, but after consulting his assistant, referee Bill Simeonovic ruled both sides had been to blame for the tussle, and there was no reason to disallow the goal

Canberra Deakin opened a four-point gap at the top as the competition reached its halfway stage, putting an end to ANU's recent revival with a 2-0 win. Michael Katz and Carl Pideski were Deakin's scorers

Second-placed Gungahlin Juventus became the latest in a growing string of sides to discover the trip to Cooma is no country picnic. They trailed to a Nathan Caldwell goal before George Cattanach salvaged a point in the closing stages

There was a welcome point also for Belconnen United, the 2-2 draw with Canberra City getting the team off to a positive start under new coach Steve Forshaw. Ivo de Jesus and Adrian Dowling were United's scorers in a game where all the goals came in the first half.

The unhappy times for Capital City Suns continued. Without the injured Michael Seleke and Tony Lemezzina they were no match for Canberra Olympic, who pulled level with Juventus with their 2-0 win.

ACT Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	9	7	2	0	30	5	23
Gungahlin Juventus	9	5	4	0	28	12	19
Canberra Olympic	9	6	1	2	23	10	19
Cooma	9	4	3	2	21	12	15
Tuggeranong United	9	4	3	2	15	8	15
Capital City Suns	9	4	0	5	13	24	12
Canberra City	9	1	5	3	12	15	8
ANU	9	2	1	6	11	23	7
Belconnen United	9	1	1	7	9	31	4
Uni of Canberra	9	0	2	7	4	24	2



Bernd Stange: Is still coaching the Iraqi National Squad.

Former Perth Glory coach Bernd Stange is returning to Iraq to pick up the reigns again of the country's national team.

Catalans aid Stange's Iraqi Cause

Stange will spend two weeks in Baghdad attempting to pull together a squad for a tour of Spain.

The charismatic German appealed to USA, British and Australian authorities to help rebuild football in Iraq.

But the only official invitation Stange received was from Catalan officials in Spain. He said they had agreed to pay for a contingent of 35 Iraqi players and officials to spend a month there.

Iraq will play a friendly against a combined Barcelona-Espanyol XI at the Nou Camp stadium on July.

"I will go to Baghdad to meet my players again," Stange told the West

Australian. "We have to rebuild soccer in Iraq

"We cannot pay for anything, it is more important for people to have water and electricity."

Stange's preparations for

the new squad were interrupted earlier this year after the country went into war with the U.S.

The German government ordered Bernd from the country while the war with

America was on

All of the Iraqi side took part in military services for their country thus hampering any football schedule for the nation.

The country is also going

through a rebuilding process after the war with the U.S but experts understand that it will be some time until the country gains full power once more

Farina: Sky's the limit for Tarka

By Brett Klucznik

Tribal Football.com reports that Australian coach Frank Farina is keeping a close eye on local product David Tarka whom he rates as one of the nations best young players.

Speaking with the West Australian last week, Farina said Tarka's dedication and commitment would determine just how far his career would take him.

"I see David as a potential Soccerroo - sooner rather than later," Farina com-

mented. "But he's learning his trade. He's still quite young. He's still got a lot to learn and I think he would be the first to admit that."

"The sky is the limit for him but it depends how devoted, how dedicated, how much ambition he has. From what I've seen, he's a young lad who really wants to do well."

The 20-year old defender will shortly trial in England where the likes of Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest and West Ham United have expressed an interest in taking a look at Tarka.



Farina believes David Tarka is a future Soccerroo.

Moreira chases Melbourne club



Alex Moreira: Could be a South Melbourne or Melbourne Knights player next season?

The 'Herald-Sun' reported last week that Brazilian striker Alex Moreira is heading back to town eager to sign for Melbourne Knights or South Melbourne.

The former Carlton front man has spent the past two NSL seasons with Newcastle United, but after managing just 19 games and four goals there, Moreira is on the move.

As it stands, the Knights or South might be able to snap up the goalscorer (43 goals in 121 NSL games) for a modest investment as Melbourne will likely be his home this season regardless. "His only family in Australia is an uncle in Melbourne, so he's moving back," Moreira's agent Lou Sticca said yesterday. "He feels he can do a good job for a team and he'll be a prize recruit who can score 15 goals. Whoever signs him will have done the right thing."

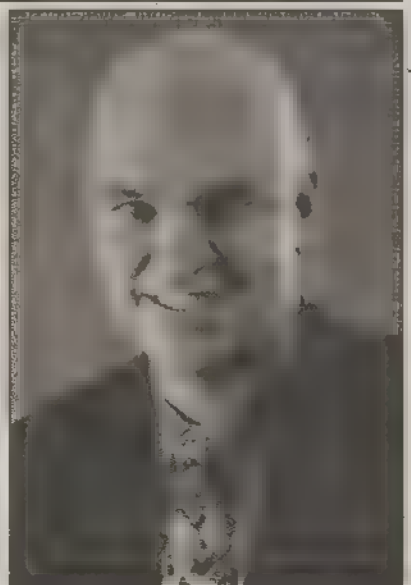
Moreira might have to bide his time given South has only recently appointed Stuart Munro as coach, while the Knights announced last Wednesday Ian Dobson would be returning for a second stint in charge.

But South could be in the hunt after releasing striker Peter Buljan. The Knights' priority under Dobson will be defenders, but they also need somebody to put the ball in the net.

Strikers and Force yet to sign coach

Brisbane Strikers and Adelaide City remain the only two NSL clubs yet to finalise their coaches for next season after confirmation from the Melbourne Knights yesterday that Ian Dobson will return for a second stint at Somers Street.

Long-serving Zoran Matić remains the most likely choice for Adelaide City, but the Strikers' position seems more open with several candidates, including former players Alan Hunter, Danny Wright and Gary Phillips believed to be in the running.



Alan Hunter is rumored to be a favourite for the Strikers coaching position.

The exodus from the Olympic Sharks continued last week with the NSL club losing two more key players for next season.

Gun striker Ante Milicic and defender/midfielder Andrew Durante have left the cash-strapped club, signing one-year deals with Parramatta Power.

The loss of the pair comes after Wayne Shroff, Jade North and Tom Pondeljak came to agreements with this year's premiers, Perth Glory.

With the Sharks operating on a budget about a third of the size of this season the player drain is expected to continue at Olympic, making the 2002/03 grand finalists long odds to repeat that effort in 2004.

The Sharks, who will revert to their old name of Sydney Olympic for the 2003/04 NSL season and play their home games at St George Stadium, felt the pinch after the consortium led by Sydney businessman Nick Politis pulled their money out of the club three weeks ago.

It's quite a testing time for the Sharks who will rely heavily on NSW Premier League players and up and coming youth stars under new coach Peter Papanikitas.

Meanwhile, Parramatta coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said the addition of Milicic and Durante was a

massive boost for the club.

"They are both quality players and I relish the prospect of having them play with the likes of Simon Colosimo and Andre Gumprecht," Theodorakopoulos said.

Milicic is renowned for his ability to create and score as a striker. His presence up front alongside Pablo Cardozo/John Buonavoglia/Kosta Salapatis will be one of the deadliest partnerships in the league.

Nick Theo will certainly have his work cut out in producing an ideal starting squad with so many stars at hand.

Ante notched up eleven goals in the NSL's normal season while the gun striker added eight more in the 10-week finals series.

It was rumored that Milicic was on his way out to Asia joining fellow former team-mate Ante Juric however Power came in and snapped up the 29-year-olds services.

While 'Dura' has also paved his way from a successful eight-year relationship with the Sharks.

Having played for Olympic since the U13's, it was a sad way to end his time at the club however the Power will certainly benefit from this in hopefully sending the youngster overseas.

Durante is currently holidaying in Europe and will

return in the next month to link up with his new squad.

The Power signed former Glory pair Colosimo and Gumprecht shortly after the NSL grand final earlier this month.

Adding to the four mentioned above, former Newcastle custodian Daniel Beltrame and team-mate Travis Dodd and former Adelaide City Force star Lucas Pantelis have also been signed for next season.

Pantelis is currently in Greece with a select Australian-Greek squad taking part in a tournament held by the Greek Government.

The club, which is in its last year in the NSL unless another financial backer can be found, will be an early favourite to take out the 2003/04 grand final

Parramatta Power this season have lost the services of out-of-contract players Liam Reddy, Joe Vrikkic, Nick Orlic, Damien Brown, Matthew Langdon and the more recent transfer to the Northern Spirit Wayne O'Sullivan for the new-year.

It's also understood that left wing-back and make shift striker Ahmad Elrich is also on the look out from a European club but the Young Soccerroo is yet to make a decision on whether to make the trek to France.

French Ligue 1 side Guingamp have shown a keen interest in Elrich and have invited him for trials in the NSL off-season.

It will be a who's who of stars when pre-season training hits at the Power.



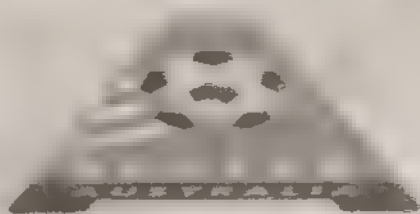
Andrew Durante (Left) and Ante Milicic (Right) last week signed a one-year deal with the Parramatta Power.



Australia v Ireland Rescheduled

Soccer Australia has announced that the Socceroos v Republic of Ireland friendly at Lansdowne Road has been brought forward by a day.

Previously scheduled for Wednesday, August 20, the game has been rescheduled to Tuesday, August 19.



The first ever encounter at senior level was moved to avoid a clash with a significant (music) event.

A Soccer Australia statement added that further match details regarding confirmed kick-off time and ticketing would be made available in coming weeks.

PFA serves notice on SA

The Australian Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) last week announced that it has served a letter of demand and log of claims on Soccer Australia and the 12 Australian-based National Soccer League Clubs as the first step in a comprehensive legal action designed to protect the employment conditions of NSL players.

Served with the authority of more than 90% of NSL players, the legal action forms part of a contingency strategy adopted by the PFA Executive in April should Soccer Australia and the NSL Clubs refuse to agree to the extension of the current National Soccer League Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). In accordance with the wishes of the PFA's membership, that strategy is designed to primarily protect the existing terms and conditions of employment for NSL players.

The letters of demand require Soccer Australia and the NSL Clubs to accede to

the demands contained in the log of claims by close of business Monday 30 June 2003, the expiry date of the CBA.

Should the demands not be accepted, on 1 July the PFA will notify the Australian Industrial Relations Commission of the existence of an industrial dispute within the meaning of the Workplace Relations Act 1996 and seek the making of an urgent interim award to ensure all NSL players continue to enjoy the fair framework of minimum terms and conditions of employment that a CBA has provided for the last 7 seasons.

PFA Chief Executive Brendan Schwab today said the PFA's action was the first in a number of essential legal steps designed to protect the employment conditions of NSL players after the CBA expires. "Given that the current Board of Soccer Australia and the NSL Clubs continue to oppose the extension of the CBA, many current and future NSL players will be without the protection of even the most basic



PFA Chief Executive Brendan Schwab.

employment conditions from the 1st of July.

"These conditions include a minimum wage, security of employment, the right to be paid when injured and an independent grievance procedure to resolve disputes involving player contracts fairly and quickly. Not only are these conditions of fundamental importance to the players, the game needs to provide such basic rights for any national competition to

succeed in the marketplace."

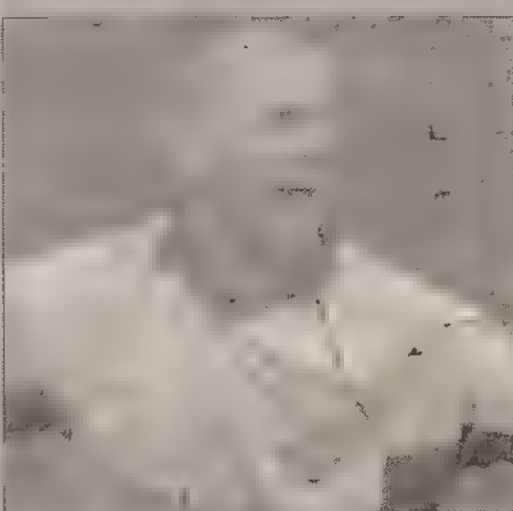
Since the CBA was extended for another season in July 2002, Soccer Australia and the NSL Clubs have refused to meet with the PFA or to table its concerns over any of the CBA's provisions. Further, Soccer Australia and the NSL Clubs refused to participate in an expressly agreed review of

the CBA that was to be completed by 31 December 2002.

"Today, the PFA remains unaware of the reasons why Soccer Australia and the NSL Clubs are refusing to extend an agreement that has been in place for a long period," Schwab said. "This makes it impossible for us to assess or address any concerns of Soccer Australia or the NSL Clubs. The CBA is not due to expire for almost another week. This means the game has enough time to resolve this issue and avoid a major action that may prove an unfortunate distraction from the more important challenges facing the game, including the reform of the national competition," Schwab added.

If the legal action happens, it will be the first launched by the PFA since 1995, when a Full Bench of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission ruled that the domestic transfer and compensation fee system should be abolished.

Spirit Sign O'Sullivan



Wayne O'Sullivan: The powerful midfielder will don the Spirit jersey next season.

Northern Spirit has signed former Parramatta Power midfielder Wayne O'Sullivan for the 2003/04 National Soccer League season.

The tough, tackling 29-year-old spent two seasons with the Power but he was no longer needed by Parramatta coach Nick Theodorakopoulos.

"Sully will be a huge asset for Northern Spirit. He is a great contributor on the park and a great character off it. There is no doubt that he will fit in well at the club," Spirit coach Lawrence McKinnon enthused in a club statement.

O'Sullivan, who represented Ireland at an Under-21 level, is excited by the move and is eager to begin pre-season training with his new team mates.

"The last few months have been difficult as I haven't known where my career was going to take me. I am pleased to have joined a club and a team that believe has a very bright future."

The tenacious midfielder will link up with experienced former Scottish international Ian Ferguson in the midfield, whom both share the same flair and style.

O'Sullivan's move from the Power comes through the recent arrivals at Nick Theo's side with 11 players said to have been all signed for the new year.

It is believed that the Power have signed Ante Milicevic and Andrew Durant from the Sharks.

BIRTHDAY BOY

JIM CAMPBELL

BORN 1 JULY 1955

SOCCEROO CAREER

A-Internationals (1980-1983)
4 games (1 goal)
Other Internationals (1980-1983)
4 games
Total Internationals (1980-1983)
8 games (1 goal)

NSL CAREER

Heidelberg (1977-1983)
182 games (52 goals)
Melbourne Knights (1984-1987)
78 games (8 goals)
Total NSL (1977-1987)
260 games (60 goals)

By Andrew Howe

utes in a 3-0 victory at Middle Park. He won a NSL Post-Season Cup medal in 1980 when Heidelberg defeated Sydney City 4-0 at Canberra's Bruce Stadium.

This was a rather successful period for Heidelberg - the northern Melbourne club finished NSL Runners-up in 1978 and 1979, and reached the National Cup final in 1980, 1982 and 1983 albeit losing on each occasion.

After moving to the Knights in 1984 he reached another National Cup final, losing 1-0 to Newcastle Rosebud, and he assisted the Knights to finals appearances in 1984 and 1985.

At the time of his retirement from the national league in 1987 he had played the fourth highest amount of games of any player (260 games) and was the tenth highest goal scorer (60 goals) - and despite playing such a high number of games he was never sent off in his NSL career.

He represented Australia three times throughout 1980, coming on as a sub twice against Czechoslovakia in February, and starting in a 2-1 win over AC Milan in May. His Socceroo career was resurrected temporarily when Australia entered the 1983 Merlion Cup, where he played in all group stage matches against Thailand, China, Singapore B and South Korea.

He came on as a substitute in the cup final against Singapore, and scored his country's third goal in Australia's impressive 4-2 win over the host nation. From 1988 to 1991 he played in the Victorian state league with Croydon, Albion and Mooroolbark.

Born in England he played at Bedford Town juniors before spending two years in the Oxford United reserves team.

He then had a short stint at Chelmsford and later returned to Bedford Town from where he was recruited by Heidelberg scout Jim Adam.

He migrated to Melbourne in 1977, his high work-rate and skill quickly apparent to his new Australian audience.

He was Heidelberg's leading scorer in 1978 (12 goals) and 1982 (12 goals), and in one devastating display against Adelaide City in May 1978 scored three goals within 21 min-

IRAN BACK ON FOR NZ

New Zealand's proposed Oceania/Asia playoff against Iran could still be on. NZ Soccer chief executive Bill MacGowan told the NZ Herald, "We have given Iran dates in September for the home and away games."

"They are keen to play, but we understand there might be a problem with Ramadan at that time." Poland, Japan and Trinidad & Tobago are also seeking internationals with the All Whites.

"There are opportunities out there," MacGowan said. "We have to make the

most of them. The Confederations Cup has made it patently obvious that we have to play much more internationally, and not just within Oceania.

"The only way we can hope to compete at this level is to play top-quality Asian or European sides - at all age levels. "We could only admire the ability of a player such as Thierry Henry [France]. But he hasn't got to that level by a fluke. The number of youth caps he had at all age levels is phenomenal."

On NZ's performance in the Confederations Cup, MacGowan added,

"Of course we had hoped to do better. "But when you play a country such as France, the gap quickly becomes obvious."

"They are No 1, we are 51. It would be like the All Blacks playing a country such as Singapore. "There have been positives in the way players such as Michael Uting, Raf de Gregorio, Ryan Nelsen, Noah Hickey and Gerard Davis have played. But for them, and us, to improve we have to keep playing. "Getting those games is the challenge for us as an association."

Vidmar: "I'll take pay-cut to stay with Adelaide"

Tribalfootball reports that Aurelio Vidmar says he is prepared to take a pay-cut to stay with cash-strapped Adelaide City.

Club owner Bob D'Ottavi announced last Tuesday that Adelaide would compete in next season's National League on a reduced budget. "I would take a little cut, it depends on how little or how big it is," Vidmar told AAP.

"I'm prepared to take a cut and I'm sure another few senior players would be prepared to take a cut but until we talk to (the board) we don't know." He added, "We had a lot of experienced

players this year, if we are going to be in the competition we have to be competitive."

"The imports are gone, we'll need the nucleus of a strong side and then there's the kids that have been there for a couple of years, they'll get a big chance."

It's been stated by club President Bob D'Ottavi that money won't be spent on new players from around the National League.

He has hinted that the local South Australian Premier League and the side's youth players will be closely monitored for the new-year.



Aurelio Vidmar: Stated last week in the press that he willing to take a pay-cut to stay with the Force.

Bresciano Wants Success



Parma star Marco Bresciano.

Aussie midfielder Marco Bresciano says he has no interest in leaving the Serie A.

The Parma ace has set himself the target of becoming a regular in his club's first team next season and is open about the success he is chasing in Italy.

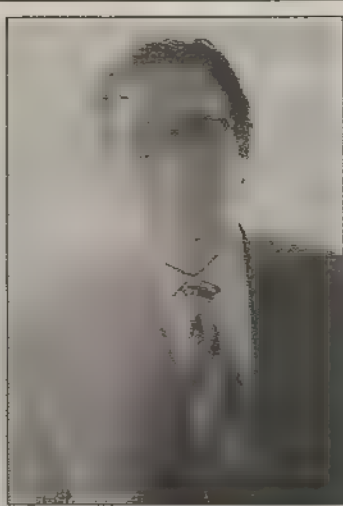
"I did make around 20 starts this year but the season has been a little stop-start for me. I have never experienced these sort of injuries before and I feel as if I still haven't done anything, so I can't

wait for next season to start," Bresciano told The Age.

"My target is to try and get five goals in the Serie A.

I want to stay healthy and injury-free. If I can do that and be in good form, I will put the coach under pressure all the time. It will be hard for him to leave me out then.

"As a little kid I always wanted to play in Italy. Now that I am there I want to stay there and be the most successful Australian ever to play in Italy."



Remo Nogarotto: Former SA chairman believes a new NSL competition must be running by the end of next season.

Nogarotto Eyes Next Season

NSL commission chairman Remo Nogarotto says a new National League must be up and running by the end of next year.

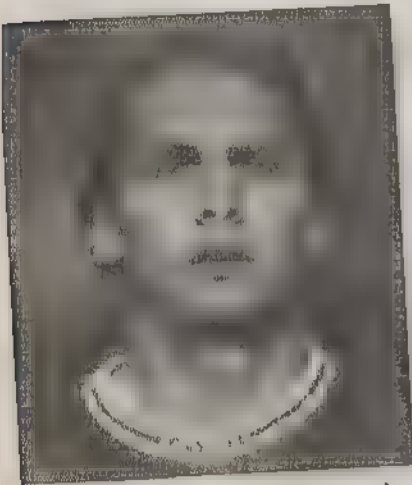
The new competition will be heavily modeled on the Australian PFA's proposal and could be launched by October 2004.

"We've got to move heaven and earth to get things up for 2004, but I believe it can be done," Nogarotto told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"I just don't believe the market place could sustain 12 more months of uncertainty. It's a tall order, I know, but now that the political impediments have finally been removed, the momentum can develop fairly quickly.

"The beauty is there's no going back, and the clubs have unanimously agreed to that. They have relinquished the right to any vetos, to any legal appeals, and we can all move forward in the same direction."

SHARKS DUO HEAD WEST



Its official - Jade North has moved West to the Perth Glory.

National Soccer League champions Perth Glory has continued its rebuilding process for next season, signing Wayne Srhoj and Jade North to two-year deals.

Perth completed the signing of Tom Pondeljak from Olympic Sharks, with the midfielder now being joined in the west by his former Toyota Park colleagues.

Olympic's owners have drastically cut the club's budget for next season with only a handful of first grade players remaining on the books. Srhoj and North, both 21, were not

offered new contracts at Olympic while 27-year-old Pondeljak was released despite having two years left on his deal.

Perth Glory CEO Jeff Dennis said in a statement that the club is delighted with the signings.

"We were very fortunate to sign such quality players to fill the critical positions in midfield and defence."

Perth has lost midfielders Simon Colosimo and Andre Gumprecht to Parramatta Power while defensive duo Jamie Hamwell and Shane Pryce also left following the club's maiden NSL title success. But the additions of Srhoj, North and Pondeljak should cover the departures.

"While we still have some positions to fill, we believe we are again developing a talented group of players to carry on the success into next season," Dennis added.

"We have always prided ourselves at Perth Glory in maintaining a long term vision for the club - both on and off the pitch. These recent signings are in keeping with our plans and commitment to reduce costs while remaining competitive on the pitch."

Glory chairman Nick Tana stated that the side will again contest for a top spot in next season's competition despite losing some key players from the squad.

The Glory have now signed four players in total from Olympic, last year saw defender Mark Byrnes make the trek to the West.

All Whites duo travelling to Scotland for training stint

All Whites duo Raf de Gregorio and Gerard Davis are flying to Scotland this week for training stints with several clubs.

The pair are out of contract and were mainstays of New Zealand's Confederations Cup campaign.

Former Clyde winger De Gregorio, like Davis is out of contract, and told tribalfutbol.com:

"It's been a fantastic experience, but we all believe we could have produced better results."

"Gerard and I will be in Scotland next week for the start of preseason training. Our agent, Lou Sticca, has organized for us to spend some time with several clubs training and basically getting a feel for SPL football."

"Dave McPherson will be looking after us while we're over there and I'm looking forward to it."

De Gregorio's agent, Lou Sticca,

added, "Raf did brilliantly against Colombia. The All Whites took a bit of stick after their defensive performance against Japan in their opening game and the coach (Mick Watt) turned to Raf to spark them up."

"He did very well, scored a brilliant goal and impressed a lot of scouts at the game."

"He has experience already in Scotland with Clyde and both he and Gerard Davis will spend time at a number of clubs in the SPL and First Division over the next couple of weeks."

Davis, who enjoyed a fine game against Scotland last month, is also out of contract and would love a move to the SPL.

"It'd be a dream," said the former Tampere United midfielder. "I loved playing against Scotland and have enjoyed myself over the last month."

"We've played some incredible teams and I feel a much better player for the experience."

"It's a great opportunity for myself and Raf next week to train with some top clubs and coaches in Scotland."

I'm really looking forward to it."

Sticca also said, "Gerard's had a superb month. He's played at left-back for the All Whites, but is known as a winger here in Australia. He's good going forward, but can also win a tackle and we think he's well suited to the British game."

Preston North End and MLS outfit DC United have both expressed interest in the 25 year-old.

Sticca added, "There's a couple of clubs in the English First Division who have contacted me about Gerard, but the lad's keen on Scotland - so we'll see how he goes over the next couple of weeks."

Tiatto eyes Knights return

Manchester City midfielder Danny Tiatto has repeated his intention to end his playing career back home in Australia.

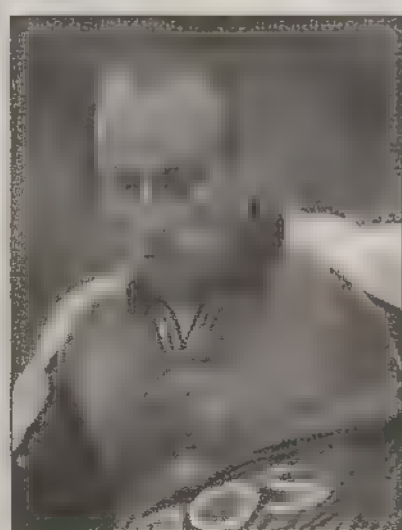
The 30-year-old is currently holidaying Down Under where he is battling to recover full fitness ahead of the start of the new campaign.

And the Aussie international has made it clear that he can foresee the end of his successful spell in Manchester and a permanent return to his home town of Melbourne.

Tiatto originally made his name with Melbourne Knights and this week re-visited his old stomping ground for the club's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The left-sided player said, "I definitely would like to finish here, without a doubt. I would love to come back here and end my career playing at the Knights with the other former players - I think we would still have a very good team."

This comes as good news for the club who in previous seasons have had the likes of Mark Viduka, Josip Skoko, Josip Simunic come through the ranks at the club.



Danny Tiatto: The fiery midfielder has stated that he will end his playing career with the Melbourne Knights.

You could only imagine if these players and more returned to the former club to end their playing careers.



BILL TURNER CUP & BILL TURNER TROPHY

(Boys)

Round 1: Kincumber 1-7 Brisbane Waters (Umina) 1-6, St Edwards Gosford 3 Narara Valley 1, Wadalba Community 4 St Peters Tuggerah 2, Northlakes 2 Gorokan 0, Erna 1 Lisarow 0, TLC Berkeley Vale 5 Gosford 1, TLC Tumbi Umbi 9 CC Adventist 0, Griffith 1 St Francis Leeton 0.

Round 2: Blaxland 2 Glenmore Park 1, Quakers Hill 3 Blacktown Boys 2, Pat Bros Blacktown 3 Doonside 2, William Clarke College 2 Castle Hill 1, Epping Boys 4 Oakhill College 3, Concord 1 Homebush Boys 0, Canterbury Boys 3 Marrickville 1, Marist Bros Penshurst 4 Randwick Boys 0, East Hills Boys 2 St Euphemia College 1, Coffs Harbour 2 Toormina 1, South Grafton 3 Catherine McAuley Grafton 1, John Paul Coffs Harbour 2 Bellington 1, Orara 2 Macksville 1, Rutherford 1-5 Kurri Kurri 1-3, Merewether 4 Newcastle 1, St Edwards Gosford 7 Kincumber 1, Wadalba Community 2-4 Northlakes 2-1, Erina 2 TLC Berkeley Vale 1, Terrigal 2 TLC Tumbi Umbi 1, Griffith Catholic 3 Griffith 1, Galen College 1 Wodonga Catholic 0, Junee 6 Cootamundra 0, Finley 3 Deniliquin 2, St Michaels Wagga 2 Koorngal 0, Nowra 4 Albion Park 2, Edmund Rice 2 Illawarra Sports 1.

Round 3: Narrabeen Sports 8 St Augustines Brookvale 1, Arthur Phillip 2 Hills Sports 0, Chris Bros Lewisham 3 Belmore Boys 0, Blakehurst 2 Endeavour Sports 1, Kingsgrove 1-5 Aquinas College 1-4, Bossley Park 1 Macquarie Fields 0.

(Girls)

Round 2: Quakers Hill 1 Riverstone 0, Christ Catholic 2 Colyton 1, St Spyridon College 6 Marah College 1, Elizabeth Macarthur 4 Robert Townson 2, GLC Forster 3 St Clarke Taree 1, Kurri Kurri 6 Cessnock 0, Lake Munmorah 2 Glendale 1, Lambton 1 St Pius X Adamstown 0.

Round 3: St Clair 2 St Columbas Springwood 1, Davidson 3 Narrabeen Sports 1, Endeavour Sports 2 Menai 0, Kirrawee 1 Port Hacking 0, Bossley Park 2 Freeman Catholic 1, Picnic Point 9 Bass 0, Mt Erin 2 Cootamundra 1, Hillston Central 0-6 Griffith Catholic 0-5, Wade 2 Barham 0, Tweed River 6 Murwillumbah 1, Mullumbimby 2 Emmanuel Ballina 0, Port Macquarie 2 Kempsey 1, Duval 6 O'Connor Catholic 0, Kotara 3 CC Waratah 0, West Wallsend 1 Hunter Sports 0, Kincumber 1-3 Wadalba Community 1-1.

Queensland Results

Round 1: Trinity Bay 3 St Augustines Cairns 2, St Marys Cairns 8 Trinity Anglican 0, Anglican Grammar 2 Iona College 0.

Round 2: St Marys Cairns 3 Trinity Bay 1, Cairns 4 Mareeba 0, William Ross 4 Townsville Grammar 0, Kirwan 3 Home Hill 0, Gladstone 2 Biloela 1, Nambour 3 Maroochydore 1, Kawana Waters 2 Beerwah 0, Padua 4 Tullawong 0, Albany Creek 2 Pine Rivers 1, Harristown 1 Centenary Heights 0, Roma Middle 2 Charleville 1, Ipswich Grammar 2 Marist Bros Ashgrove 1, Centenary 2 Redbank Plains 0, Wellington Point 1, Anglican Grammar 0, Cavendish Road 8 Park Ridge 0.



On The Hunt For The Superleague Title

Balgownie Rangers Soccer Club 120 Years Old



RECENTLY, Australia's oldest Soccer Club, the Balgownie Rangers, celebrated its 120th Anniversary with a special dinner staged at the Fraternity Club in Fairy Meadow, near the city of Wollongong.

The dinner, which was attended by 350 guests, included two former Balgownie Rangers' internationals in Barry Salisbury and Max Tolson.

A former schoolteacher, Salisbury was Player/Coach at Balgownie in 1967.

The now grey-haired Salisbury in his speech stated to the guests:

"My term with the Balgownie Rangers was one of the most happy times of my life in Soccer. I thoroughly enjoyed those days".

Former Australian World Cup striker, the tough-as-teak and lanky Max Tolson, endorsed Salisbury's statement.

"I never played in a senior team with Balgownie," Tolson said to ABSW.

"I played all my Junior Soccer with Balgownie till I was 16. Then I had to move to South Coast United," he ended.

Balgownie's long serving Club President, Mr Mario Vescio, stated to ABSW:

"I'm very, very proud of Balgownie. It's today Australia's historic Soccer Club which has a tradition second to none".

The loyal and industrious Mr Vescio has served Balgownie for no less than two decades, the last eight consecutive years as President.

"We are so very honoured to have had the great 'Judy' Masters having come up through our Grades to captain Balgownie and to have gone on to captain Australia.

"The great Masters is a very big part of our Club's history," reminisced the phlegmatic Mr Vescio.

History.

The Balgownie Rangers Soccer F.C. was officially formed back in 1883.

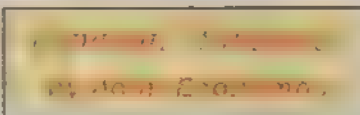
Early British mining settlers, who had arrived in Australia to start a new life, drifted down to the Illawarra region of NSW seeking employment once it had become well-known that coalmines were rapidly being opened up.

A Scottish family carrying the name of Hunter, was attributed as being the significant instigators in forming the now historic Balgownie Rangers Club.

The Hunters, together with their many other British migrants, understandably had brought with them to Australia their beloved game of Soccer.

Seven years after the Hunter

family had pioneered the Balgownie Rangers, the Club was officially registered and admitted to play in the newly formed NSW Football Association.



'Judy' Masters.

Over the years, the Balgownie Rangers produced great players, arguably the most famous being the leg-



endary James ('Judy') Masters who went on to play in 22 full internationals for Australia, captaining the team in all 22 matches.

This lethal Australian Soccer marksman did combat against New Zealand (1923), China (1923 and 27), Canada (1924), English Professionals (1925) as well as against Czechoslovakia in 1927.

At the age of 16, the great James 'Judy' Masters made his debut for the NSW State team and ended his career with a record 401 club games scoring a massive 351 goals. This tenacious goal-scoring coal-miner on the weekend wore his 'Black and White' Balgownie Rangers striped jersey with huge pride.

Born in Balgownie on the 21st of May back in 1892, this first great Australian goalscorer passed away just three weeks before Christmas of 1955, whilst at his home less than 100 metres from his beloved home ground the Judy Masters Park at Balgownie.

Earning his living as an industrious coal-miner, 'Judy' Masters over the years became an Australian sporting legend. Masters served in the A.I.F. during World War I in Gallipoli and in France before returning to Australia to continue his playing career. The unyielding Masters, although slightly framed, was a rangy, lethal centre-forward, (central striker). He was dubbed by his teammates with the tag of 'Judy', a spin-off from the then popular puppet twins, 'Punch and Judy'.

Today, as a salute to this legendary goal-ace, the Balgownie Rangers Soccer Club's picturesque and historic home ground, wedged at the foot of a mountainous range, has been named The Judy Masters Park. Other former greats spawned by Australia's oldest active club were Tom Thompson, Davie Ward and Frank Smith in the 1900s.

More recently, the Perth Glory's attacking right-back Matty Horsley, cut his teeth in Soccer with Australia's oldest club, the Balgownie Rangers as a Junior, before graduating into the ranks of the NSL with neighbouring Wollongong Wolves.

Whilst at Wollongong, this former Balgownie Junior remained a key player with the Wolves for nine consecutive loyal seasons, the last three as skipper.

Other famous internationals that played for Balgownie were Barry Salisbury and Maxy Tolson.

To Balgownie Rangers Soccer F.C., ABSW extends its congratulations on its 120th Year in Australian Soccer.



(L to R) Balgownie Rangers' President Mario Vescio, former Australian International Barry Salisbury, former Australian World Cup striker Max Tolson and Balgownie Rangers' Secretary Vince Raschilla.



Balgownie Rangers Soccer club President, Mario Vescio leaning over the 'James (Judy) Masters' plaque.



(L to R) Vince Desantis (Balgownie Rangers' team manager), Ms Felicia Sartor the Rangers' Industrious Treasurer, Club President Mario Vescio and Club Secretary Vince Raschilla.



from the dressing sheds

by Mark Stavroulakis



WE WILL NEVER FORGET MARC-VIVEN FOE

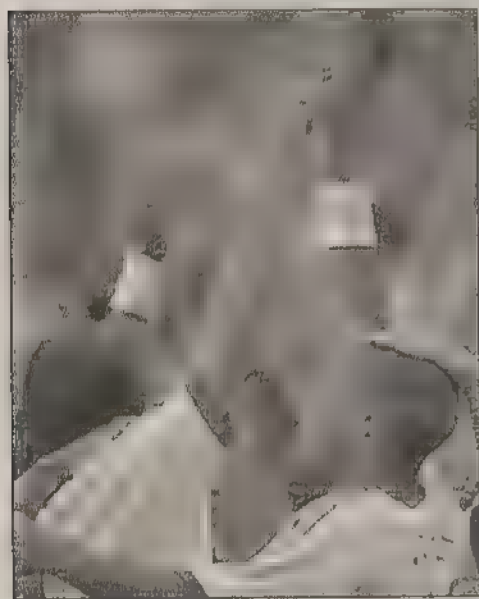
The world is still in shock after hearing the news of Cameroon star Marc-Vivien Foe's tragic death last Thursday at the Confederations Cup semi-final between the African Giants and Colombia.

Many spectators and viewers from across the globe were left shocked at the events which took place in France.

After playing almost all the match Foe took his final steps before the half way line before collapsing.

Having been known by many as one of the funniest players in soccer, not to mention his sleek attributes, size and fitness, it still remains a huge mystery as to why this happened to such a healthy player.

I could not believe my eyes when I saw the event on television, one of the saddest images in world soccer.



French striker Thierry Henry and his team-mates raise a finger to the sky as they dedicate his goal against Turkey to Cameroon star Marc Vivian Foe who collapsed and died during the other Confederations Cup semi-final with Colombia.

Credit to the Manchester City side for retiring his coveted number 32 jersey also it was a great sight to see Colombian and Cameroonian players embrace in prayers after the match for Foe.

The soccer world was brought closer together when the French stars dedicated each goal to their fallen team-mate.

Watching Thierry Henry cry really was a sad sight. To the millions that watched Foe play week by week with Manchester City, he will be never forgotten!

AND THEN THERE WERE 2...

After reading the news of the Melbourne Knights appointing former coach Ian Dobson to the top of their ladder, two National League clubs were still left without a coach for its side.

The Brisbane Strikers and Adelaide City Force have yet to state who will take charge of their respective squads next season.

For the Sunshine Coast side, Alan Hunter, Gary Phillips and Danny Wright are all fighting for the number one job.

Meanwhile in Adelaide, after the club announced that it will take part in the NSL competition next season, Zoran Matic has been asked to guide the squad again but no formal answer has been given as of yet.

These next two weeks will see the final coaching positions end for next season.

SCOUTS AND ABOUT

It's been interesting to note that in the current SOCCER NSW Winter Super League competition, an array of talent scouts and coaches from the National

League have made their ways at various pitches watching potential stars.

The Wollongong Wolves, Sydney United, Marconi, Olympic Sharks and Northern Spirit scouts have been on the look out for some exciting raw and new talent.

One player that has been in huge demand has been Sydney Crescent Star striker Tanju Balabanal.

The former Turkish under-sixteen international has scored an amazing 20 goals in fifteen matches, an amazing achievement.

RUMOURS AND SHAKERS

This week a number of permanent moves and juicy rumours become more evident in the week of Australian football transfers.

The Parramatta Power side again made their presence felt in the players market by snaring two players to make that seven new signings for the new-year.

The side might have lost out on the signature of David Beckham but have secured the services of gun striker Ante Milicic from the Sharks.

Milicic is joined by young Sharks defender Andrew Durante, both have signed one-year deals.

The big question now is, who will Nick T start up front?

On the books at the moment the Power has Pablo Cardozo, John Buonavoglia, Kosta Salapasis and Royce Brownlie, all strikers! Departing the Power last week was Mr Energizer himself Wayne O'Sullivan. The former Irish international jumped on the Northern Spirit bandwagon, a great signing for the club nonetheless.

It looks as though the Olympic Sharks have been a busy club of late in its plight of signing new players for the new year.

The club has obviously had its budget slashed immensely and will be looking towards local talent.

Nick Orlic, Joe Vrikkic and Scott Baillie look set to sign for the Sharks next season - Not a bad defence.

Paul Dee, Michael Galluzzo and Michael Kladis have also been names that have filtered through as potential Shark players under new coach Peter

Papanikitas who finished his duties as head manager at Stanmore last Sunday afternoon.

It looks as though former South Melbourne striker Michael Crucija could re-sign for the club next season, along with favourite son Con Boutsianis.

South have also still shown a small interest in former Wollongong Wolves midfielder Dino Mennillo.

The Melbourne Knights and South Melbourne sides will also be looking at former Newcastle United striker Alex Moreira as well.

Perth Glory earlier in the week completed its triple Shark signing along with Tommy Pondeljak, Wayne Srhoj and Jade North have made the move to the West.

Three terrific signings, two of which could benefit the club in the future with the young two guns wanting to make the move to an overseas club in the next two seasons.

The Adelaide City Force are looking towards retaining experienced stars Aurelio Vidmar and Carl Veart for the new year.

Both of stated that they would take small pay-cuts for next season but at this stage have yet to sign anything.

The Marconi Stallions this week will make their first signings of the new-year.

Strong word has it that former Olympic Sharks striker Jeromy Harris could be at the Stallions next year.

Coach JP stated to ABSW this week that a word will be made on players. "A definite word on who will be resigning and who will be coming and going from the club will be made some time this week."

Olympic Sharks star defender Ante Juric has secured a lucrative deal with a Malaysian side for the new year.

No doubt yet another huge blow for the Olympic club, Juric did a fine job marshalling the defence for the past few seasons for the Blues.

It looks as though Clint Bolton, Paul Kohler and Troy Halpin look to be the only Olympic players staying for the new year, but for how long?

Greg Owens looks to have secured his deal back to his birthplace Newcastle with Ian Crook's side.



Michael Crucija to South Melbourne AGAIN?

A nominee for Cleo Bachelor of the year, his sultry looks will certainly be missed with many of the female faithful!

Vlado Zoric could don the boots once more and join his old club Marconi while rumours have linked Brad Maloney back to the Stallions as well.

Finally don't count out Grant Lee's Sydney United squad.

The team has kept a rather low-key affair with the media, but close sources state that they could spring up some surprises with signings soon.

One player who is rumoured not to be at Edensor next season is string-bean keeper Vanya Ivesa.

OLYMPIC'S NEW VENUE

After months of speculation as to where Olympic would play comes the news that they look certain to play at St George Stadium next season under their old name 'Sydney Olympic'.

The name Olympic Sharks obviously does an injustice to the name now that Toyota Park or known to many as Shark Park won't be used for the new year.

JESS STEPS IT UP

Melbourne based player agent Peter Jess could well recover his millions of dollars he lost during the sale of players Vince Grella and Marco Bresciano to Empoli as Grella has been the subject of a transfer move in the summer.

Having been linked to AC Milan and Parma, the former Carlton star played an inspirational role in keeping Empoli afloat in the Serie A this season. Carlton were supposed to receive 10% of the transfer if both were sold however got nothing thus prompting Jess to take matters legally with Empoli.

AND THE WINNER IS METALLICA

Heavy-Metal band Metallica last week beat the Socceroos one-nil.

Your probably wondering what this all means. Well the famous group was the subject of the Socceroos v Ireland clash being moved 24 hours forward to avoid a clash with the rock concert.

OZ-GREEKS TRIUMPH

As ABSW goes to press the select Australian-Greek side currently taking part in the 'Ellinada Games' in Thessaloniki have taken out the three match series with three victories bringing back a trophy for the lads.

The first resulting in an outstanding six-nil victory over a select Greek squad from Europe.

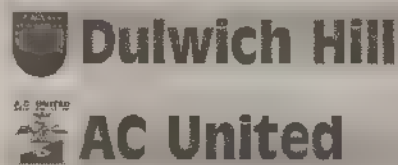
Scorers on the day was former A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt striker Steve Karavatakis who bagged a hat-trick, while Elias Demortzidis nailed two and the final goal was scored by the youngest member of the squad, Nick Stavroulakis. While in the second match, the Australian-Greeks took out the game with a three-nil victory while a four nil win in the final ended the tournament in style. A full wrap on the tournament will be seen in next week's ABSW.

photooftheweek



NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE MATCH OF THE ROUND

MUDDY DRAW AT ARLINGTON



By Paul Goodwin

This game held great promise, for Dulwich Hill were returning to Arlington Oval after their shameful drubbing at the hands of the Hurstville City Minotaurs the previous Sunday and no doubt they were given an earful by their coach, Jim Patikas, at training during the week, before facing title challengers AC United here.

AC, on the other hand, could only manage a 0-0 draw during the week, in a deferred away game against MSC Liverpool and were looking for a big win to get their season back on track.

The rain during the week had turned the notorious dust bowl of Arlington Oval into a skaters' rink and there was much slipping and sliding out in the middle for these two old rivals as they went about their business with a sense of urgency.

The bounce did not favour good football, either down the middle where it was all mud or down the flanks where the bounce was terrible and the turf was very heavy too.

In the end the spoils were shared, but it took a monumental blunder, deep into stoppage time, for the home side, Dulwich Hill, to salvage a point from a game that could well have been theirs all along.

They dictated the play in the first half and only poor finishing and some excellent keeping from Claudio Fernandez stood between them and a half time lead of generous proportions.

It was not a lot different in the second period, though AC did change things around a bit mid-way through the half when they sent on Johnny Ghisso and pushed Nathan Rivera forward to partner Rick

Giometti in attack.

Chris Giometti slipped back in behind this pair and the visitors began to look much more dangerous after that.

But having seeing numerous chances squandered or great saves made to thwart their best endeavours, AC could barely believe their luck when, in the 74th minute, Chris Giometti found the ball at his feet just inside the Dulwich half and no opposition player in sight.

Furthermore, his elder brother Ricky was all alone, unmarked, ahead of him and all that was needed was a pass threaded through and the keeper was completely exposed.

The 32-year old striker needed no more invitation and sent his low shot easily past Fernandez. The goal had been, in truth, against the run of play.

The first half had seen Dulwich striker David Fernandes set up by a quick break from Anthony Mondello, only for the former to fail to reach the cross at the far post in the 26th minute and then in the 37th Helder Cardoso's cross saw Fernandes hit his volley, taken at the near post, just over the angle of the post and upright.

Mondello also was free inside the box in the 44th, but he, too, blasted over the bar, when it did look easier to score than to miss.

Apart from a couple of overhead efforts from Tahiti international, Jean Loop Rousseau, that cleared the bar, Dulwich was not nearly as effective after the break.

This was largely due to sound work at the back by Ray Mandic and John Kelso, with a big contribution also from Robbie Grubba and skipper Dominic Oliveira.

Then Dulwich had to survive shots from Chris Giometti and Mandic, which the keeper saved in the last twenty minutes, to stay in the game.

It did look as if AC had escaped with the 1-0 win, but, incredibly, they gave away possession deep into stoppage time and even more inexplicably they gave away a free kick out near the right corner flag, as the time on referee Alex Spiroski's watch must have moved ominously close to full time.

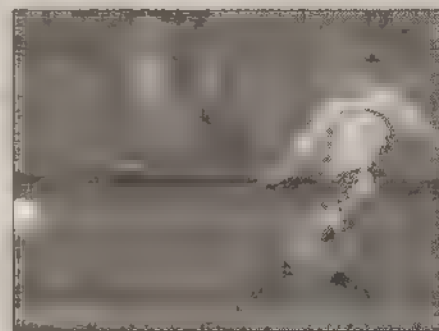
AC somehow compounded the error of conceding a free kick by allowing tall Dulwich defender, Michael Cindric, to stay unmarked at the far post and when the ball floated over he simply nodded it, unattended, into then top left corner of the net.

It was recorded as the 89th minute but it was surely encroaching on the 90th by then.

A goal that they richly deserved, however, but it was hardly one they should have been

Ismael Arrarte and Ben Delicata got through a lot of work for Dulwich Hill, as did Cardoso, but the home forwards were unable to penetrate, for the most part and it almost cost them any points at all.

AC will take the point, but for them it was a game they could so easily have stolen before they let it slip through their fingers unnecessarily, right at the death.



Dulwich Hill's Chris Velovski

FRASER FALLS TO MINOTAURS

This loomed as an intriguing contest, with Fraser backing up after a mid-week triumph over Stanmore and the Minotaurs fronting without three of their best players, suspended during the week.

Spiro Kladis, Peter Antonopoulos and Sam Panagakakis all got their marching orders against Dulwich Hill and were ousted for between one and three weeks respectively.

Fraser had a habit of beating the tough sides and dropping points against the lesser lights so this was a game they needed to be wary of if their title challenge was not to founder.

At least the visitors had experienced campaigner Tom Pontidas to call upon and a few other older heads to steady them, plus the famous Minotaurs' spirit.

The under-strength Minotaurs were really keyed up for this one and they had some trump cards in the pack, even allowing for their absent heroes.

Peter Apolevski came good at the right time getting the ball over from the right and rifling the ball into the far corner of the net catching the Fraser custodian off guard completely.

This 14th minute strike stunned the home side who took until the 59th minute to draw level through Tony Faria.

With the game in the balance and deep into stoppage time the Minotaurs fashioned a winner.

Aheleas Kotsopoulos was not having a very effective game and his coach Peter Sarikakis was considering taking him off; but wiser counsel prevailed.

Instead, the on-loan Canterbury-Marrickville wingman, who joined the Hurstville outfit only a week earlier, produced the winner with a timely finish to a ball crossed into a crowded box.

It was a goal and a winner that keeps the Minotaurs' semi-finals' hopes alive and one that dealt a body blow to Fraser's hopes of toppling Sydney Crescent Star at the top of the table.

DULWICH HILL 1

(M Cindric 89')

AC UNITED 1

(R Giometti 70')

at Arlington Oval, Dulwich Hill.

DULWICH HILL: Michael Xuerab, Chris Velovski, Daniel Radjokovic, Helder Cardoso (Macca De Souza 72), Milan Cindric, Ismael Arrarte, David Fernandes (Jean-Loop Rousseau 46), Xavier Schnyder (C), Ben Delicata, Joseph Fichera, Anthony Mondello.
Sub not used: Paul Jurcevic and Jose Mendes.
Coach: Jim Patikas.

AC UNITED: Claudio Fernandez, Robbie Grubba, Ray Mandic, Dominic Oliveira (C), John Kelso, Robbie Sacco (John Ghisso 58), Matthew Abdei (Enzo Sansone 48), Nathan Rivera, Javier Mancino (Michael McGovern 68), Chris Giometti, Rick Giometti.
Subs not used: Peter Akers (RGK) and Pablo Polito.
Coach: Nick Porra.
Referee: Alex Spiroski.

Assistant Referees: Luigi Carluccio and John Soranidis.
Yellow Cards: Dulwich Hill Nil.
AC United: Nil.



The NSW Winter Super League Round 19 clash between Dulwich Hill and AC United at Arlington Oval was a hard-fought affair, ending in a 1-1 draw

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NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE

WANDERERS HELD BY IMPROVING RYDE

**Hajduk Wanderers 2
Ryde City Gunners 2**

By Paul Goodwin

Hajduk Wanderers, with a backlog of fixtures mounting up, including games against Stanmore Hawks and Fraser Park, were keen to get this one against anchor club Ryde City out of the way at Hajduk Stadium, which has not been a good wet weather ground this season.

On a well grassed surface, the Wanderers and the Ryde City Gunners shared the points in what proved to be a most absorbing and entertaining game, but one of two contrasting halves.

In the end, the 2-2 draw was a fair result, as both teams created enough and squandered enough chances to donate the game to one another.

To be fair, however, Hajduk and Ryde both showed caution and reserve in their approach, indicating a healthy and equal respect.

In the end, no one side dominated throughout the match: Hajduk performing best in the first half while Ryde dominated in the second.

The first twenty minutes produced no chances of any consequence as both teams attempted to settle into a rhythm and searched for gaps, which they might exploit.

Both teams took a while to settle, but it was Hajduk that did much of the early attacking and Ryde were perhaps a little lucky to be given a life in the 19th minute when Todd Brodie's conversion of a Brendan Salameh cross was deemed to be offside by assistant referee, Ernie Horvath.

But the continued pressing by the Wanderers throughout the half, and the increasing errors made by the Ryde defence eventually had to result in a goal.

In the 30th minute Paul Crisp had volleyed the ball from 30 yards out but his effort went just over the bar.

Then came the goal, in the 36th minute, when Ryde defender Greg Fuchs was caught near the sideline without an option.

As he tried to pass upfield, the Wanderers' Chris Camilleri met his kick and raced to the by-line turning the ball in towards a waiting Trent Worrall, who pounced on a spilled save from the Ryde keeper Nick Apofis to put the Wanderers one up.

Two minutes later a deja-vu effort saw an unmarked Worrall strike again, this time drawing the keeper and placing another Camilleri cross into the back of the net.

For the Gunners, in the last five minutes of the first

half, poor defensive clearances were the order of the day, as lapses of concentration and dejection set in.

Whatever the Ryde manager put into the water at half time - it worked!

The Gunners came out firing and when ace striker Robbie Portelli was brought on in the 53rd minute, Ryde came to life.

The first of two Gunners' goals was quite bizarre. Ryde appeared to be denied in the 61st minute, after the ball had gone legitimately into the net, but referee John Bowdler had correctly signalled a penalty for a handball infringement.

Hajduk skipper, Mark Abi-Arrage, was shown the yellow card for handling the ball in the 18 yard box and Bowdler pointed to the penalty spot.

A bemused crowd then had to wait for Andrew Maller's penalty strike before halting the goal.

Ryan Manente was only on the field for the home side for two minutes and came close to putting one away for the Wanderers, but he sadly saw his shot come back off the upright.

The Ryde goal had injected renewed hope into the visitors and serious attacks were launched against a now fully stretched Hajduk defence.

In the 67th minute live-wire forward Scott Dixon's half volley cannoned off the Hajduk upright with the goal-keeper Daniel Schwarzer well beaten.

From a Greg Fuchs throw-in, the Gunners scored the

equaliser in the 73rd minute. Andrew Maller met the throw at the far post and the ex Northern Spirit signing nailed the ball home past a diving Schwarzer.

Not to be outdone, Hajduk's Anthony Hartshorn seized an opportunity just outside the box to flash one at the Ryde goal, only to see his attempt deftly pushed over the bar by Apofis.

The Wanderers lifted their game again and took control and two minutes later Apofis made another brilliant save, pushing the ball away for a corner, when Robert Kuman had struck the ball from 30 yards out.

Nahuel Arrarte then took the corner and Eddie Wong won a headed challenge in the goalmouth, but the ball just scraped the cross-bar.

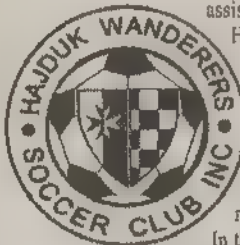
In the last few minutes, play became more hectic as both sides tried to sniff out a winner, which was not to be. In all, a fair result - and a third draw in a row for Ryde.

After the match, Hajduk coach Tom McCulloch was visible in his disappointment.

"We let them back into the match today and this is concerning and disappointing. We have now failed to win at home on a few occasions and this is costly. Good luck to Ryde today; they took their chances well."

A relieved Chris Cowley spoke highly of his team's second half effort.

"We showed a real determination in the second period," he said.



Goal Feast for Football-Hungry Fans

Round 14 Deferred Match

By Paul Goodwin

Stanmore Hawks hosted Fraser Park Dragons at Lidcombe Oval in a deferred game from round 14 last Wednesday.

A mild night, after a day of steady rain, produced a good turnout of spectators who witnessed a thrilling game, won in the end by Fraser Park with a late flurry of goals in a high scoring and keenly fought encounter. Each team still has games in hand on the leader, Sydney Crescent Star, whose home ground it is and who provided the hospitality, with an abundance of fine foods to cater for a hungry crowd.

But any lingering hunger for goals was soon satisfied, with both teams showing enterprise and drive, as they provided a feast of fine football on a night when other less demanding souls might have been watching a game of a completely different nature, just a kilometre or two away at Homebush Bay.

Stanmore stunned Fraser Park early with a goal that resulted from some serious uncertainty in the heart of the visitors' defence.

This had allowed Anthony Samonikas to move into space, just 15 yards out from goal and turn smartly, before despatching a great left-footer into Steve Angelov's net.

Angelov looked hesitant several times during the game and explained later that the lights made it hard for him to see the ball, but despite a number of fumbles during the game, it was his superb saves in the second half that allowed Fraser Park to survive a Stanmore onslaught and regain the lead, before going on to win 5-3.

Having been a goal down after 19 minutes Fraser Park gained parity in the 22nd, when a corner from Manny Papageorgiou was not cleared any further than the edge of the box and the lurking Liam Austin was able to volley the ball into the roof of the net.

Austin turned provider in the 41st, when he cut the ball back from the byline for Tony Fara to tap home.

Holding a 2-1 lead at half time, Fraser needed only five minutes of the second half to extend their advantage to 3-1.

Papageorgiou got away down the left, in a swift counter-attacking, move and angled his shot across the despairing dive of Hawks' keeper Woytek Zarzycki and in at the far post.

Stanmore replied inside five minutes, however, a cross from the left being met by Dimitri Nicolaou, whose strike was of the highest quality.

It was only another four minutes before the scores were level once more, goals now standing at three apiece and many of those gems, too.

A high ball into the box proved awkward for either the Fraser defenders or keeper Angelov to deal with and in a mix-up amongst them the ball wound up coming off the foot of Daniel Cunningham, who, in attempting to clear, managed merely to divert the ball, via Angelov's body into the net, unaided by any Stanmore opponent.

Stanmore, having clawed their way back again, showed every sign of going on with the job, but it was then that Angelov really earned his stripes.

As Stanmore coach and incumbent Sydney Olympic mentor Peter Papinikitas commented after the game,

"We were unlucky, but their keeper stood between us and a win; he was magnificent."

Admittedly Nikolaou missed a good chance in the 65th, lobbing just over from 20 yards, but the Fraser keeper saved twice more from Samonikas and Andrew Falas, the latter the save of the game.

He did that and Fraser's strikers did the rest.

They punished a static Stanmore defence, with Liam Austin scoring two more to bring up a first ever hat-trick. He clearly heeded the advice of his coach, Ian Gillan, at half time.

"I took Liam aside and told him to worry the defenders off the ball, because at this level I knew he could do that", explained the first season coach.

Austin, in the 78th, dispossessed George Skoulios 30 yards out from goal and then faced the keeper who had put his own defender under the initial pressure needlessly.

Skoulios came out of it all with a possible shoulder injury, as he fell awkwardly in attempting to stop Austin's progress, but Austin made the task of beating the keeper a simple one in the end. Skoulios, though,

Manly Hammer Hawks

A hat-trick from new signing Adam Kwasnik propelled the Manly-Warringah Dolphins to a 4-1 win over Stanmore Hawks at Cromer Park on Sunday afternoon.

It was a terribly disappointing send-off for Stanmore coach Peter Papanikitas, who leaves for Sydney Olympic this week. Two of his players were sent off late in the second half with the score standing at 3-1.

Anthony Samonikas had given the visitors the lead in the 13th minute, and they had managed to hold onto it through a bruising and physical first half. The Manly comeback started in the 55th minute, when Craig Sharpley latched onto an Anthony Martin cross and stabbed it home for an equaliser.

The home side then ran riot. Kwasnik - on loan from Northern Spirit - came off the bench to find the net three times late in the second half. Frustration started to show late in the game, as the floodgates opened.

"We didn't really have a bad player, as you'd expect in a 4-1 win," said Manly coach Phil Moss after the match. Best for the Dolphins were Tom Corte, Matt Osman (another on-loan Spirit player) and the super-sub Kwasnik.

"The boys were told at half time that if they wanted to go home happy, they had to put it in on the pitch. They almost succeeded in taking home the spoils."

Ryde's breaking news was that Blacktown City and former Premier League Player of the season Damien Foxe has been signed until the end of the season.

A player of Foxe's calibre could be just the tonic the Gunners need to lift them to safety.



had to be assisted off the field.

Then, in the 84th, a bad mix-up in the Stanmore defence allowed Austin to make it 5-3 after Papageorgiou had stolen the ball and threaded it through.

Stanmore coach Papinikitas was of the view that the injuries - ankle ligament damage to Perry Moustakos, who was stretchered off in the 74th and the shoulder damage to Skoulios - were the turning points in the game, as his side had looked on fire by that stage and as the game fast came to its conclusion.

Then, the saves of Angelov and the great work of Fraser's front pair had a lot to do with it as well.

Fraser moved ahead of Stanmore and into a clear second spot after this victory on 'foreign soil'.

It was a lot better than their last visit to Lidcombe Oval at the start of the season.

They were beaten 5-0 by Sydney Crescent Star, that day, but have since gained revenge for that drubbing and now look set to challenge for the lead within weeks.

Stanmore, with a coach who will soon be moving on, could be only an outside chance now for the title, especially after the injuries they sustained in this match.

**STANMORE HAWKS 3
FRASER PARK DRAGONS 5**

STANMORE HAWKS. Woytek Zarzycki, Darren Hayward, Perry Moustakos, John Theodoropoulos 74th, George Skoulios, Anthony Skoulios 78th, Chris Hunt, Maurice Soie, Alex Constantin (David James 78th), Neil Philippou, Andrew Falas, Demetri Nikolaou, Anthony Samonikas.
Subs not used: Peter Spithis (RGK), Steve Liavas.
Coach: Peter Papinikitas.

FRASER PARK. Steve Angelov, Daniel Cunningham, Alex Lers, Michael Kladis, Archie Markopoulos (Clint Mayberry 86th), Greg Collins, Ian King, Martin Bourke, Tony Fara, Paul Oliveira 83rd, Liam Austin (Bili Petrovsk 88th), Manny Papageorgiou.
Subs not used: Daniel Farias (RGK), Mark Guerrero.
Coach: Ian Gillan.
Referee: Jonathan Streater.

Assistant Referees: Adrian Hale and volunteer official Yellow Cards: Stanmore Hawks, George Skoulios 17, Fraser Park, Paul Oliveira 85.



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NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE

SYDNEY CS WINS UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

Sydney Crescent Star

4

Sydney University

2

There are few more pleasant places to be than Sydney University Oval on a Sunday afternoon in winter.

The sun filters down through the branches of the mature trees that completely surround the ground, creating a forest-like effect.

This silvan setting saw the hosts - resplendent in their blue and yellow hooped jerseys - take on league leaders Sydney Crescent Star. In the end, the scoreboard recorded a 4-2 win for the visitors, but the students can take heart from a gallant performance against an outfit packed with high-quality players.

A healthy crowd of about 400 - bolstered by many away supporters cheering for their Turkish-backed team - clustered around the main grandstand, and many

skirmishing forward down the left and keeping Crescent Star pinned in their own half for several minutes.

The visitors appeared to be regaining the initiative in the 13th minute, when a sudden University counter-attack saw Jeremy Brown sprint into the box to finish off a lightning quick build-up and level the score.

Crescent Star were caught napping again a minute later when University striker Tim Wilson found space in the box, and scrambled a low cross into the net. He even managed to make it look stylish. 2-1, and the league leaders were reeling.

Both teams produced some good football in the remainder of the first half. Sydney CS captain Yavuz Eckinci was having another strong game in midfield,

and it looked as if Sydney University were going to hang onto their lead until half-time.

But then Crescent Star midfielder Terry Atsas popped up from amidst a goal-mouth scramble and drilled a low shot into the left-hand corner of the net.

Things looked evenly poised at the beginning of the second half, but Crescent Star had an ace up their sleeve, in the form of striker Tanju Balabanel.

The league's leading scorer had been revving quietly in the forward line during the first half, but began to become more involved in the second.

He showed flashes of pace to turn his marker on several occasions, including a deft move that put Eckinci through into a one-on-one with Uni keeper Matt Crow, though the CS captain shot tamely wide.

Sydney CS got their noses in front after 53 minutes, following a quick break by Petratos and Balabanel through the centre. The ball was played out wide into the path of the overlapping Hussein Jomaa, who smacked in a low shot from the left.

The league leaders drew confidence from the goal, and began to relax into the free-flowing style that had brought them 10 victories before this game. Balabanel, Eckinci and lively substitute Huseyin Bayhan brought the best out of Crow with numerous shots and headers.

Balabanel then won his side a penalty in the 70th minute, slipping free and being brought roughly down by Peter Peehan in the University 18-yard box.

Crow rose to the occasion, though, producing a superb save from Eckinci's spot-kick. He guessed left and the CS player shot to the right, but Crow somehow twisted mid-air and was able to snatch the ball in one palm of his broad glove.

Further stout defending by Sydney Uni thwarted most other CS raids, and they sometimes threatened through David Gill, Rob Smithies and substitute Daisuke Nakayama.

It wasn't quite enough, though, and Bayhan sealed the victory for Crescent Star in the final minute of the match, after Balabanel had powered free on the left and cut the ball back for the ex-Sydney Olympic forward to tap home.

Uni coach Stewart Porter was philosophical about the defeat. "We were very competitive throughout the game, and I don't think we deserved to lose 4-2. But they have a Premier League side and we have an amateur side. We made it tough for them, and I'm happy with all the boys," he said.

Sydney Crescent Star coach Yasin Ozdenak described this match as difficult, but thought the final scoreline was a fair reflection of the patterns of play.

The most important thing is the 3 points. Every game we play from now on is like a final for us, because every team sees us as the leaders and wants to beat



Sydney Crescent Star's Devrim Huseyin is pursued by Sydney University's David Gill

us," he said.

In response to rumours about the imminent departure of star striker Tanju Balabanel for Europe, Ozdenak said he was not certain about the player's status, but would be encouraging him to stay on until the end of the Super League season.

23-year-old Balabanel is keen to return to Turkey, where he formerly played junior representative football and starred for the Fenerbache youth team.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY: Matt Crow, Peter Peehan, John Heath, Sam Daraskos, Daniel Borg, Aaron Snyder, Rob Smithies, J Tim Wilson, Jeremy Brown, Andy Christie, David Gill.

SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR: Ali Akbal, Filip Marzec, Devrim Huseyin, Terry Atsas, Tanju Balabanel, Yavuz Eckinci, Hulusi Orhan, Evangelos Petratos, Tayfun Devrimol, Askin Ovgur, Melik Mengi.

Referee: Peter Smith. Assistant Referees: Greg Leadbetter, David H.



Sydney CS's Angelo Petratos gets sandwiched by two University defenders

more were scattered on the green hills overlooking the field. They all enjoyed an entertaining display of skillful football.

Thanks to rugby and rain, the surface of the pitch resembled a ploughed field in parts, confining much of the attacking play to the flanks. Fortunately, both teams are blessed with skillful wide players; and there was action and goal-mouth incident sprinkled liberally throughout the match.

Sydney CS got off to a great start in the 7th minute, when their classy attacking player Evangelos Petratos tucked away a nice goal after some sleepy defending from the hosts.

But, to the surprise of some, Sydney Uni launched an immediate fightback,

winning challenges and sending many an accurate pass to the feet of his team mates.

He was well supported by Devrim Huseyin and Hulusi Orhan, and this pair combined to send over a brilliant cross in the 21st minute, which Melik Mengi headed just over the bar. Moments later, Petratos had a header saved by in-form Uni keeper Matt Crow.

University had chances of their own, including a 25-yard free-kick from Daniel Borg that was brilliantly tipped away by CS goalkeeper Ali Akbal.

Eckinci had a shot deflected wide of the university net in the 30th minute, and then shot just past the post from the resulting corner. Various other half chances were squandered by the visitors.

TOUGH DRAW AT LYNWOOD

Macarthur Rams and MSC Liverpool played out a scoreless draw at Lynwood Park on Sunday afternoon. By all accounts, it was a dour, physical struggle, which neither side did quite enough to win.

MSC had some early goalscoring opportunities, including one that was cleared off the line by Macarthur's Matthew Toogood. Eric Williams had a strong game for the Moorebank club, forcing some good saves from the Ram's former Australian Schoolboys Keeper Peter Munsie.

Paul Wither did well at times for Macarthur, sprinting down the right to

create chances, but by the Liverpool backline stood firm. One dark spot for the visitors, though, was the injury to stopper Daniel Kuziow, which may keep him off the park for several weeks.

Williams stood out up front for Moorebank, while the entire defence played well as a unit. For Macarthur, defender Adel al Jamal, Wither and sweeper Christian Miranda put in strong showings.

This was an even contest between two committed, if lowly-positioned, teams and nil-nil was fair reflection of that. A point apiece will be useful as the season draws on, though it shouldn't greatly affect the fortunes of either side.



Crescent Star's wall looks defiant as Daniel Borg prepares to take a long range free kick for Sydney University



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NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE PREVIEWS

It's second versus third at Abruzzi Oval this Saturday, as AC United host the Fraser Park Dragons.

After recording a draw last week, AC will be looking to pull away from the following pack, and perhaps even catch the league leaders while they're at it. With classy players like Javier Mancino the Giometti brothers spread out across the park, Nick Porreca has many options to choose from, and they will go

into this match as very slight favourites. Fraser will have something to say about that, though.

Fraser were surprised by the improving Hurstville last week, but an away win over AC would more than make up for that result, especially as they have a game in hand against their opponents.

Dulwich Hill host Manly Warringah in a mid-table clash at Arlington Oval on Sunday at 3pm. Buoyed by last week's

thrashing of Stanmore, the visitors will be primed for action, especially with new striker Adam Kwasnik in such good form. No doubt the experienced Dulwich Hill backline will be well briefed to keep an eye on him by coach Jim Patikas.

The home side have the unpredictable talents of Jean-Loop Rousseau up front and, along with the likes of Ismael Arrate and Ben Delicata, he could be a match winner if given enough time on the park. The rough surface at Arlington may play a role in the outcome of this fixture.

Sydney University will be travelling down to Ernie Smith Reserve on Saturday to meet MSC Liverpool, in another interesting lower-mid table contest. University can take heart from a reasonable showing in their loss to Crescent Star last week, while MSC will be fired up after failing to beat the lowly Macarthur.

A win for the Moorebank club could see them leap two positions up the table.

With Eric Williams leading the line, and a solid defence, albeit without Daniel Kuziow this week, it's a strong possibility. But University have their own trump cards in the form of Tim Wilson and captain Rob Smithies. A draw seems a likely result.

Hurstville City take on Hajduk Wanderers at the Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre at 3pm on Saturday, in what

should be a very entertaining encounter.

Both sides like to attack and have the players to enable them to do so. Hajduk are solid all over the park, with the likes of Joe Badrov and Mark Abi-Arrage anchoring the side and Trent Worrall, along with youngster Chris Cammilleri providing forward momentum.

They are coming off a disappointing home draw with Ryde last week, and will be favourites to win here. But the home side, even though they have lost some names from the teamsheet recently, have the players and spirit to make a good match of it. If Premier League signings Apolevski and Kotsopoulos start firing, anything could happen.

Sutherland Shire had a week off last week but, hopefully for them, they can maintain the momentum of a fortnight ago, when they beat Hajduk convincingly.

Their visitors at the well-appointed Seymour Shaw Park on Saturday are the lowly Macarthur Rams, who did well to get a draw from MSC last week. Sutherland are poised just outside the leading group, but could conceivably jump to third with a win here.

They have a strong squad and will be strong favourites at home. The Rams, with a young and largely home-grown team are really aiming at survival at this

stage of the season. They are capable of an upset, but they will have to score goals to achieve that, and 15 from 16 matches isn't statistic they will want to recall with pride.

Stanmore Hawks are the visitors to Lidcombe Oval this week, and they will have to make a lightning recovery from last week's mauling by Manly if they are to trouble Sydney Crescent Star.

The league leaders, mentored

by their former Galatasaray goalkeeper, Yasin Ozdenak, play a quick, slippery brand of soccer. They also have half a dozen players capable of scoring from unlikely situations, making them a tough proposition for any team.

Stanmore will need big games from their experienced players like Hayward, Sarmonikas and Maurice Soler to have a chance of points at Lidcombe.

The match kicks off at 5pm on Sunday.

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE ROUND 20

- AC United V Fraser Park Dragons
Abruzzi Oval, 05 July 2003 3-00pm
- Dulwich Hill V Manly Warringah
Arlington Oval, 06 July 2003 3-00pm
- MSC Liverpool V Sydney University SC
Ernie Smith Reserve, 05 July 2003 3-00pm
- Hurstville City V Hajduk Wanderers
Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre,
06 July 2003 3-00pm
- Sutherland V Macarthur Rams
Seymour Shaw Soccer Stadium
05 July 2003 6-00pm
- Sydney Crescent Star V Stanmore
Lidcombe Oval, 06 July 2003 5-00pm
- Ryde City V BYE

SUPER LEAGUE GOALSCORERS

as at Sunday 29th June 2003

- 20 - Tanju Babanel (Sydney Crescent Star).
- 11 - Anthony Sarmonikas (Stanmore Hawks).
- 10 - Yavus Ekinci (Sydney Crescent Star),
Chris Giometti (AC United)
- 9 - Emmanuel Papageorgiou (Fraser Park)
Jam Austin (Fraser Park)
- 8 - Justin Creighton (Manly-Warringah).
- 7 - Zia Younan (AC United), Mark Guerrero (Fraser Park)
Derek Pomer (Sutherland), Filip Marzec (Sydney CS),
Jean-Loop Rousseau (Dulwich Hill).
- 6 - Jason Tee (Manly-Warringah),
Tim Gledhill (Hajduk Wanderers) Andrew Smith (Sutherland),
Rob Smithies (Sydney University)
Demetri Nicolaou (Stanmore Hawks), Tim Wilson (Sydney Uni),
Antonio Faria (Fraser Park)
- 5 - Hussein Jomaa (Sydney Crescent Star).
- 4 - Alex Araujo (MSC Liverpool), Andrew Borg (Macarthur),
Anthony Mondello (Dulwich Hill), Gary Seymour (Macarthur),
Nahuel Arrarte (Hajduk Wanderers),
Dimitri Zakilas (Hurstville City)
- 3 - Rob Portelli (Ryde City), Damian Rosenthal (Manly-Warringah),
Rick Giometti (AC United), Terry Atsas (Sydney CS),
Huseyin Bayhan (Sydney Crescent Star),
Andrew Mailer (Ryde City), Trent Worrall (Hajduk Wanderers),
Adam Kwasnik (Manly-Warringah)

NSW Winter Super League Scoreboard

FIRST GRADE

DULWICH HILL1 (M Cindric 89')	AC UNITED1 (R Giometti 70')
MANLY WARRINGAH4 (C Sharpley 55', A Kwasnik 68'/72'/89')	STANMORE HAWKS1 (A Sarmonikas 13')
FRASER PARK DRAGONS1 (A Faria 59')	HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS2 (P Apolevski 14', A Kotsopoulos 90')
HAJDUK WANDERERS2 (T Worrall 36'/39')	RYDE CITY GUNNERS2 (A Mailer 81' pen/70')
MACARTHUR RAMS0	MSC LIVERPOOL0
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY2 (J Brown 13', T Wilson 14')	SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR4 (E Petratos 7', T Atsas 42', H Jomaa 53', H Bayhan 92')

Under 21

DULWICH HILL0	AC UNITED4
MANLY WARRINGAH1	STANMORE HAWKS2
HAJDUK WANDERERS4	RYDE CITY0
MACARTHUR RAMS2	MSC LIVERPOOL0
FRASER PARK DRAGONS VS HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS (WASHED OUT)	
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY VS SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR (POSTPONED)	

Under 19

MANLY WARRINGAH1	STANMORE HAWKS0
HAJDUK WANDERERS5	RYDE CITY0
MACARTHUR RAMS0	MSC LIVERPOOL1
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY0	SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR3
DULWICH HILL VS AC UNITED (WASHED OUT)	
FRASER PARK DRAGONS VS HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS (WASHED OUT)	

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sydney Crescent Star	16	11	3	2	52	33	19	36
AC United	17	8	7	2	29	18	11	31
Fraser Park Dragons	16	9	2	5	40	20	20	29
Stanmore Hawks	15	9	1	5	27	25	2	28
Sutherland Sharks	16	7	6	3	26	22	4	27
Hajduk Wanderers	15	6	6	3	22	14	8	24
Manly Warringah Dolphins	17	5	6	6	32	29	3	21
H'ville City Minotaurs	16	5	4	7	20	32	12	19
Sydney University	15	5	1	9	23	27	-4	16
Dulwich Hill	17	4	4	9	25	33	8	16
MSC Liverpool	16	3	6	7	14	23	9	15
Macarthur Rams	16	3	5	8	15	28	13	14
Ryde City	16	2	3	11	20	41	21	9

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
AC United	17	11	3	3	39	18	21	36
Fraser Park Dragons	14	11	1	2	38	14	24	34
Dulwich Hill	16	10	0	6	24	20	4	30
Manly Warringah Dolphins	17	8	5	4	35	25	10	29
Stanmore Hawks	14	8	3	3	26	15	11	27
Hajduk Wanderers	15	7	5	3	29	12	17	26
Sydney University	15	6	5	4	29	23	6	23
Sutherland Sharks	15	6	4	5	26	22	4	22
Macarthur Rams	16	4	5	7	22	31	9	17
H'ville City Minotaurs	15	3	1	11	16	40	24	10
MSC Liverpool	16	1	6	9	14	30	16	9
Sydney Crescent Star	14	2	2	10	24	41	-17	8
Ryde City	16	2	2	12	11	42	31	8

UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sydney Crescent Star	15	11	3	1	40	18	22	36
Manly Warringah Dolphins	17	11	3	3	37	16	21	36
AC United	16	11	1	4	43	20	23	34
Sutherland Sharks	16	8	2	6	33	30	3	26
Dulwich Hill	15	7	4	4	26	19	7	25
Fraser Park Dragons	14	6	3	5	23	20	3	21
Stanmore Hawks	14	6	3	5	20	23	3	21
Sydney University	16	5	3	8	26	33	-7	18
Ryde City	16	5	2	9	17	26	9	17
MSC Liverpool	16	4	3	9	17	27	10	15
Macarthur Rams	16	3	5	8	21	36	15	14
Hajduk Wanderers	15	3	4	8	21	34	-13	13
H'ville City Minotaurs	16	2	2	12	14	36	22	8



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YOUTH LEAGUE REVIEW

Premier Youth League - Round 19

Blacktown City have skipped out to a ten point lead over Olympic Sharks on the Combined Table and the Sharks have a fifteen point break on third-placed Parramatta Eagles. The Demons would have been hoping for a little more than the eight points they took from Newcastle United but they were helped by the news that Marconi Stallions took twelve points from Olympic on the same day. Parramatta Eagle pocketed twelve points away to Sutherland Shire Sharks and Northern Spirit earned nine points at Bankstown City Cubs.

The Wollongong Wolves v A.P.F.A.-Leichhardt Tigers matches were washed out but the Wolves are still in the top five on goal difference. Sydney United would have been very pleased with the twelve points they took from Penrith Panthers as would Central Coast who took the same number of points from Southern Branch who took full advantage of their long trip north by continuing on to play Newcastle United in Round 25 matches which were brought forward on Sunday. The two points they earned on the day took their weekend tally to five. They now trail Penrith Panthers by only four points but the mountain men have five games up their sleeves.

GOAL WATCH: There were ninety-two PYL goals scored in this round for an average of 3.08 goals per match

Grade 12. Blacktown City maintained their unbeaten status after their 1-1 draw at home to mid-table Newcastle United and that narrowed their competition lead to two points when nearest rivals Northern Spirit beat Bankstown City Cubs 2-1, a result that was much closer than anyone could have anticipated. Third placed Olympic Sharks unexpectedly lost 1-0 to Marconi Stallions while Penrith Panthers easily accounted for Sydney United with a 4-1 scoreline. Parramatta Eagles rolled Sutherland Shire Sharks 3-1 while Central Coast accounted for Southern Branch 5-0. In a match rescheduled from Round 25 Newcastle United were held to a 1-1 draw by Southern Branch.

Grade 13. Olympic Sharks have a two point lead after they beat Marconi Stallions 1-0 while second-placed Blacktown City had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Newcastle United. In that match United opened the scoring within two minutes and the Demons were forced to chase the result which they achieved through a Sonny Tawil equaliser. Northern Spirit scraped home 1-0 over Bankstown City Cubs and Sutherland Shire Sharks were too good for Parramatta Eagles, winning the match 4-1. Penrith Panthers took a two goal lead to the break but Sydney United came home with a wet suit to score three second half goals from Andrew Haddad (2) and Steven Veleski. Central Coast knocked off Southern Branch 3-1. In the Round 25 game played on Sunday Newcastle United were 3-0 winners over southern Branch.

Grade 14. Parramatta Eagles were far too classy for Sutherland Shire Sharks with a 4-0 win that saw them maintain their place at the top of the table. They are two points ahead of Blacktown City who defeated Newcastle United 1-0 while third placed Marconi Stallions knocked over fifth-placed Olympic Sharks 2-0. Sydney United are back in contention for a top five place after a Daniel Cornett double gave them the points against Penrith Panthers for whom Aaron Childs provided their sole goal. Bankstown City Cubs surprised with a 1-0 win over Northern Spirit and Central Coast were successful 4-1 against Southern Branch. The Coasties were not so fortunate in a rescheduled Round 20 midweek clash with Blacktown City which the Demons won 3-0. In the other rescheduled match (from Round 25) Newcastle United were held to a 1-1 draw by Southern Branch.

Grade 15. Competition leaders Marconi Stallions increased their margin to five points when they defeated second-placed Olympic Sharks 1-0. Parramatta Eagle remained in third spot after they accounted for Sutherland Shire Sharks 2-1. Blacktown were a bit too good for Newcastle United, winning the match 5-2 and Northern Spirit got the points against Bankstown City Cubs with a 2-1 result. Sydney United won 3-0 over Penrith Panthers thanks to strikes from Robert Vladika, Adam Jukic and Dale Hupalo. Central Coast annihilated Southern Branch 4-1. Southern Branch were in action again on Sunday in a rescheduled R25 match against Newcastle and they were defeated again, this time 3-1.

Grade 17. Highly regarded Newcastle United have slowly but surely climbed the table this season and they have finally made it to the top. On Saturday they accounted for Blacktown City 1-0 and then they backed up on Sunday for a 3-0 win over Southern Branch. They were aided and abetted by the fact that Wollongong Wolves did not play.

Marconi Stallions surprised when they knock off third-placed Olympic Sharks 2-1 while fourth-placed Bankstown City Cubs were far too good for Northern Spirit as they posted a 4-0 result. Parramatta Eagles got the points by the odd goal in a five goal thriller and a goal from Matthew Tessoriero was enough to give Sydney United three points against Penrith Panthers. Southern Branch got something out of their weekend when they beat Central Coast 2-0.

Super Youth League

Macarthur Rams have a five point lead at the top of the table after they grabbed eight points from last week's leaders Manly Warringah Dolphins, relegating them to third place overall. AC United are second after they earned twelve points from Hajduk Wanderers and Nepean are fourth following their ten point haul at Camden Tigers. Eastern Suburbs had a good day at St George as they took thirteen points home with them.

Fairfield Bulls entertained Mingara Lakers and slipped nine points into their

pockets while Blacktown Association had a reasonably profitable visit to Bonnyrigg White Eagles where they took ten of the available points. Northern Tigers' home games against Hills United were washed out.

GOAL WATCH: There were ninety-five goals scored in this division this week for an average of 3.18 goals per game

Grade 12. Yet-to-be-beaten Manly Warringah slipped a further point away from Northern Tigers when they drew 2-2 with fourth-placed Macarthur Rams and third placed AC United were too good for Hajduk Wanderers winning 3-0. Eastern Suburbs had a very healthy 4-0 victory over St George and Blacktown Association were surprisingly held to a 1-1 draw by Bonnyrigg White Eagles. Nepean beat Camden Tigers 2-1 and Mingara Lakers had a hefty 4-1 success at Fairfield Bulls. Scorers for the Lakers were S. Workman Brown, T. Irvine, T. Lake and S. Young and Michael Cramer replied for the Bulls.

Grade 13. Nepean maintained their winning ways with a 2-0 result at Camden Tigers to lead the table by two points over Macarthur Rams who also had a healthy 2-0 win over fourth-placed Manly Warringah. AC United whacked Hajduk Wanderers 6-0 to secure third place and Blacktown Association are fifth after they were too good for Bonnyrigg White Eagles with a 4-0 scoreline. Eastern Suburbs are within striking distance of the top five after they defeated the slightly better performed St George 1-0 and Mingara have leapfrogged Fairfield Bulls after beating them 3-2. Adrian Vouthvong and an Own Goal gave Fairfield their two goals while B. Westley (2) and J. Sanos scored for the Lakers.

Grade 14. Nepean have an amazing twelve point lead in this competition after their 3-1 win over Camden Tigers and the fact that Northern Tigers did not play. Hajduk Wanderers remain in third place despite their 3-1 loss to AC United who are fifth. Eastern Suburbs are fourth after their solid 5-1 victory at St George. Macarthur Rams are sitting in sixth spot, overtaking Manly Warringah following their 4-1 result and Fairfield Bulls won by the odd goal in five over Mingara. Adam Clarke, Damien Brosque and Hassan Tinha found the net for the Bulls while C. Nutt and M. Moseley responded for the Lakers. The Ian Lloyd coached Bonnyrigg White Eagles passed opponents Camden Tigers on the table when they won 2-0.

Grade 15. Bill Garriock's Macarthur Rams have a six point break after they knocked off Manly Warringah 1-0 and Eastern Suburbs were held to a scoreless draw by St George. AC United are fifth after they also slipped up, going down 2-0 at home to Hajduk Wanderers. Nepean drew 1-1 with Camden and Fairfield Bulls jumped to tenth place after a goal from Mitchell Dempsey gave them the points over Mingara. Blacktown Association are ninth following their solid 4-2 over Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

Grade 17. Hills United still lead the way despite their game being washed out but Fairfield Bulls have narrowed the gap after they accounted for Mingara 4-0 thanks to goals from Kane Moffatt (2), Theo Constantinou and Pasquale Corso. Northern Tigers are third and they obviously did not play but fourth-placed AC United did and they posted a handy 2-1 victory over fifth-placed Hajduk Wanderers. Still grieving over the loss of Nathan Garriock, Macarthur Rams battled out a scoreless draw with Manly Warringah Dolphins to be sixth on goal difference. Right on their hammers are Blacktown Association who won 1-0 at Bonnyrigg White Eagles and Camden Tigers are continuing their long hard climb back up the table following their nice 3-0 win over Nepean. Eastern Suburbs snatched the points with a win by the odd goal in five over St George.

Division One Youth League

Mt Pritchard are the new leaders on the Combined Table following their thirteen point haul at Hawkesbury City. They lead Schofields Scorpions by nine points who gave nine points to third-placed Ryde City. Fourth-placed Wollongong United took ten points from fifth-placed Dulwich Hill and that looks as though it will be the final composition of the top five. Parramatta City's matches against Hurstville City Minotaurs were washed out but they are twenty-two points behind Dulwich Hill. MSC Liverpool are a further two points adrift after they split the points evenly with Rockdale City Suns. Eighth place is held down by Canterbury Bankstown who had a ten point haul at Stanmore Hawks and Granville Association pocketed nine points at home to Mt Drunit Town. In Round eight catch-up action Parramatta City took nine of the twelve available points from Stanmore Hawks.

GOAL WATCH: One-hundred-and-one goals were scored in this division this round for an average of 3.7 goal per game.

Grade 12. Competition leaders Wollongong United took the points from Dulwich Hill with a 2-1 scoreline, a result much closer than anticipated. Second-placed Schofields Scorpions had a comfortable 3-0 win over Ryde City fourth-placed Granville scraped home 1-0 against lowly Mt Drunit. Parramatta City have remained in third spot. Mt Pritchard were held to a 1-1 draw by Hawkesbury City while Rockdale City surprisingly beat MSC Liverpool 2-0. Canterbury Bankstown had an equally startling 2-1 victory over Stanmore Hawks.

GRADE 13: Stanmore Hawks 2 Parramatta City 1.

Grade 13. Canterbury Bankstown maintained their three point lead with a 1-0 win over Stanmore Hawks and Mt Pritchard continued to apply pressure with a 2-1 scoreline over Hawkesbury City. Third-placed Schofields Scorpions lost a seven goal thriller by the odd goal to Ryde City. Granville had a nice 2-0 victo-

ry against Mt Drunit Town and MSC Liverpool put three past Rockdale City without reply. Wollongong United were too good for Dulwich Hill with a 2-0 scoreline. In Round 8 action Stanmore took the points with a 2-1 win over Parramatta City.

Grade 14. Schofields Scorpions have maintained their three points lead despite losing 4-2 to third-placed Ryde City. Canterbury Bankstown continued their run of success with a 10-0 trouncing of Stanmore Hawks while Dulwich Hill were held to a scoreless draw by Wollongong United. Mt Pritchard had a comfortable 4-1 win at Hawkesbury City and MSC Liverpool demolished Rockdale City 6-0. Mt Drunit took the points with a 1-0 win over Granville. Parramatta City dished out some more punishment to Stanmore in their Round 8 catch-up match, winning 7-0.

Grade 15. Dulwich Hill hung onto the top spot with a 2-0 win over Wollongong United but their lead is a slender one point after Mt Pritchard beat Hawkesbury City 4-2. They have a seven point break on Ryde City who lost 3-1 to fourth-placed Schofields Scorpions. Fifth-placed Rockdale were held to a 1-1 draw by mid-table MSC Liverpool and Mt Drunit Town clobbered Granville 5-0. Stanmore Hawks battled out a scoreless draw with Canterbury Bankstown. Parramatta City took the Round 8 points against Stanmore Hawks with a 1-0 result.

Grade 17. Stanmore Hawks are the new leaders on goal difference after they picked up three points from the 4-0 win over Canterbury Bankstown and then grabbed three more from a 1-0 Round 8 result against Parramatta City. Previous leaders Hawkesbury City suffered an unexpected 2-1 loss to Mt Pritchard. Third-placed Dulwich Hill are now three points adrift after they lost 4-1 to Wollongong United who are fifth. Ryde City accounted for Schofields Scorpions 2-1 and Rockdale City were too good for MSC Liverpool, posting a 2-0 result. Granville handed Mt Drunit Town a 4-1 beating.

S.S.I. Girls Youth League - Round 16

Olympic Sharks had a good day against Marconi as they gathered in seven of the available points while Macarthur Rams were forced to split the points evenly with Southern Branch. Manly Warringah Dolphins took six points from central Coast and Nepean did the same thing to North West Sydney Koalas. St George earned six points at Blacktown while Northern Tigers also took six points at home to Granville.

GOAL WATCH: Eighty-one goals were scored in this division this week for an average of 4.5 goals per match.

Grade 12. Competition leaders St George had an emphatic 4-0 win over Blacktown after Macarthur Rams handed Southern Branch an 11-0 thrashing. Manly Warringah Dolphins are third after they proved too good for Central Coast with a 2-0 result and fourth-placed Nepean overcame North West Sydney Koalas by the same scoreline. Olympic Sharks defeated Marconi 1-0 and Northern Tigers beat Granville Magpies 13-0.

Grade 14. Olympic Sharks lead the way after they defeated Marconi 3-1 while second-placed North West Sydney Koalas scraped in 1-0 over Nepean. Macarthur Rams are third after they were held to a 1-1 draw by lowly Southern Branch. Central Coast surprised with a 2-1 win at home to fourth-placed Manly Warringah Dolphins. St George took the three points when they beat Blacktown 4-2 and Northern Tigers were too classy for Granville Magpies with a 4-0 outcome.

Grade 16. Southern Branch have a seven point lead after their 7-1 demolition of Macarthur Rams and Marconi's 1-1 draw with Olympic Sharks. Blacktown came up trumps with a 10-1 execution of St George and North West Sydney Koalas continue to push for a top four spot but they suffered a setback when Nepean knocked them off 1-0. Manly Warringah Dolphins had a 3-0 win at Central Coast and Granville Magpies rolled Northern Tigers 2-1.

attack Boys Metropolitan League

Competition leaders Gladesville Hornsby remain undefeated but they dropped points on Sunday when they were held scoreless by second-placed Granville in the match-of-the-round. Bankstown continue to apply pressure with a 2-0 win over Manly Warringah and eastern Suburbs are in fourth place after they beat Southern Districts 6-2.

Macarthur Rams are applying pressure for inclusion in the top group after they beat Canterbury 4-1. Mawarra accounted for Central Coast 6-2 and Nepean edged out St George 1-0 and Southern Branch took their points from Blacktown with a 1-0 scoreline. The match between Ku Ring-Gai and Sutherland was washed out. In Rescheduled Round 13 action Nepean and Southern Branch had a scoreless draw.

GOAL WATCH: Twenty five goals were scored in this league this week for an average of 3.57 goals per match.

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Western NSW Results

First Grade	Reserve Grade	Under 18
Orana Spurs 1	Orana Spurs 3	Orana Spurs 6
Macquarie Strikers 0	Macquarie Strikers 0	Macquarie Strikers 2
Canobolas Rangers 5	Canobolas Rangers 5	Canobolas Rangers 5
Orange CYMS 0	Orange CYMS 0	Orange CYMS 0
Westside Panthers 0	Westside Panthers 0	Westside Panthers 2
Bathurst 75s 6	Bathurst 75s 3	Bathurst 75s 4

Sydney Branch Metropolitan League

Grade 13	
Enfield 0	Edensor Park 3
Fraser Park 1	Eagles United 6
Fairfield West 2	Inter Lions 1
Wetherill Park 1	Sylvania Heights 4
Fairfield Pats 3	Chullora Wolves 0
Gymea 0	Belmore Hercules 2
Como West Jannali 3	Concord Juniors 4
Menai Hawks 4	White City 0
Grade 15	
Hurlstone Park 4	Gymea (B) 2
Fairfield Hotspurs 5	Georges River 2
Gymea (A) 1	Liverpool City Robins 2
Chullora Wolves 0	Concord Jnr SC 2
Menai Hawks 0	Eagles United 3
Sylvania Heights 2	Sydney Juniors 3
Wetherill Park 2	Strathfield 1
Inter Lions 0	White City 3
All Age	
Liverpool City Robins (B) 2	Fairfield Hotspurs 3
Liverpool Olympic 0	Wetherill Park 3
Smithfield RSL Won by Forfeit	Granville Waratah (B) Lost by Forfeit
Liverpool Rangers 2	Marrickville 0

2003 Friendship Games

Soccer NSW will host the 2003 Friendship Games at Valentine Park, Glenwood, from the 5th-10th July.

The Friendship Games feature elite representative Under 14 boys teams from each mainland state.

The aim of the series is to help prepare the players for future competitions and challenges, in an atmosphere that is without the stresses of full-blown competition.

"Results are not important and we don't record them," says John Hedison, Special Projects Officer for Soccer NSW.

"There are no winners or losers, and

every player in the Games receives a medal."

The organisers will also be trialing free interchange of players, rather than substitutions, for the duration of the series.

Many of the players who have participated in earlier Friendship Games have gone on to forge distinguished careers in soccer.

"Harry Kewell and Brett Emerton have taken part in the past. Pretty much every elite player that has emerged in the last 10 years has been through the Friendship Games," said Mr Hedison.

"The Friendship Games are the prelude to the following year's National

Talent Identification Championships," Mr Hedison said.

This year's group of youngsters will be eligible for the National Talent Identification Championships in 2004.

Teams competing in the 2003 Friendship Games:

New South Wales
Northern New South Wales
Country New South Wales
Queensland
Queensland Country
Victoria
South Australia
Australian Capital Territory
Western Australia North

NSW Metropolitan Under 14 Boys

Shirt No	FAMILY NAME	GIVEN NAME
1	BRANDALISE	Matthew
2	HANCOCK	Daniel
3	GIANNAROS	Emmanuel
4	NASTOVSKI	David
5	SHIN	Simon
6	KING	Daniel
7	CARNUCCIO	Mathew
8	BOZANIC	Oliver
9	PETRALITO	Sebastian
10	HOLLAND	James
11	NAIDOVSKI	Jason
12	ROONEY	Shaun
13	RASSMUSSEN	Tim
14	CVETANOVSKI	Peter
15	JESIC	Marko
16	ZENELI	Ziam

NSW Country Under 14 Boys

Shirt No	FAMILY NAME	GIVEN NAME
1	MURRAY	Jeremy
2	SINCLAIR	Grany
3	WALKER	Nicholas
4	BETTINZOLI	Mark
5	ROOTES	Daniel
6	RYAN	Adam
7	SMITH	Steven
8	BLUNDELL	Dale
9	MILLER	Jack
10	SAUNDERS	Dean
11	RALPH	Nathan
12	PAPANDREA	Luke
13	SOLIGO	John
14	MACEDONE	Michael
15	JOHNSTON	Kyle
16	PHELPS	Liam

State, Robertson & Amateur Cup Results

Under 14

Doonside Hawks 1	White City SC 0
Lilli Pilli Jnr SC 4P	Loftus Rovers (B) 3P
Community Jnr SC 2	Engadine Eagles 1
Strathfield SC 0	Springwood SC 1

Under 16

Fraser Park 1	Como West Jannali 2
Marrickville SC 2	White City SC 0
Menai Hawks 4	Forrest Killamey 3
Chipping Norton 4	Concord Jnr SC 1

Under 18

Gymea United 1	Como West Jannali 2
Sydney Juniors 1	Baulkham Hills SC 3
St Marys Eaglevale 4	Milperra Lions SC 2
CC Strikers 2	Menai Hawks 1

Under 21

Loftus Rovers 7	Baulkham Hills SC 3
CC Strikers 2	Beacon Hill SC 0
Menai Hawks 0	Gymea United 0

ALL AGE

Engadine Crusaders 0	Bankstown Dist Sports 3
WPH Cherrybrook 3P	Lidcombe Waratahs 4P

Smithfield RSL 3P	Menai Hawks (B) 0
Penrith Rovers 4	Gymea United (A) 1

OVER 35

East Bankstown 0	Penrith Rovers 5
Canley Heights RSL 0	Gymea United 0
Engadine Eagles 2	Bargo Yerrumbool 0

U14 Women

Liverpool City Robins 8	Gunnars SC 0
Edensor Park 3	Como West Jannali 1

U16 Women

Wakehurst SC 0	St Clair United 4
Gymea United (A) 1	Chipping Norton 2
Edensor Park 2	Menai Hawks 4
Como West Jannali 3	Gunnars SC 2

All Age Women

Marayong Sports 5	Sth Dubbo Wanderers 0
Quakers Hill JSC 1	Cronulla RSL 2
Bonnet Bay SC 3	Liverpool Olympic 5
Manly Seaside 6	Como West Jannali 3

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Pele: Beckham will succeed

Brazilian legend Pele believes David Beckham will quickly adapt to life in Spain with Real Madrid.

The England captain made the £25million (\$A62.5million) switch to the Bernabeu last week from Manchester United and Pele, who won the World Cup three times with Brazil, believes he will find life in Spain tricky at first.

But Pele insists Beckham has the ability to quickly change his style of play to cope with the game in Spain.

"When you change and country you sometimes need some time to adjust," he told Virgin Radio. "Maybe in Spain he will have a little problem in the beginning but I think for the good players it is generally very easy."

Pele also claims Beckham's lofty transfer fee and equally lucrative personal terms are money well spent in today's climate.

"Today they pay a lot for the players. It is a different world with promotion, media, publicity the clubs have more to offer," he added.

"But he deserves it, he is a player who has played for a long time at the top level, has proved his ability and a player who plays for the team."

Earlier, Beckham entertained about 15,000 supporters in Vietnam with a variety of soccer skills.

The England captain balanced a ball on his head and then on his back while doing push ups in the stadium in Ho Chi Minh City.



The great Pele believes David Beckham will succeed in Spain.

"It's a great honour and a great pleasure to be in this country," Beckham told the crowd.

Beckham completes the final leg of his promotional tour, arranged by Castrol UK in Thailand where he spent a couple of days earlier this week.

Then he is expected to head home and begin preparing for life in Spain following his move to Real. Beckham is due to be unveiled next week providing he passes his medical 24 hours earlier.

But despite Madrid's hope that Beckham will boost their earning power in the Far East, Ian Rush believes that Liverpool are bigger than the Spanish club when it comes to global support - even with the addition of the England captain.

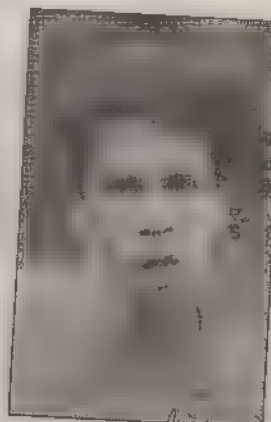
The Anfield legend claims the power of Liverpool's fan base will become apparent when they visit Hong Kong.

"No matter how much money they splash out and how many world-class players they sign, Madrid will never be able to compete with Liverpool when it comes to global support," the former Reds striker told the Liverpool Echo.

"Buying David Beckham was a bid to tap into that fanbase. But while Beckham is a huge hero in the Far East where Madrid are keen to boost their profile, Liverpool are far bigger."

"Liverpool will be mobbed when they arrive in Hong Kong because they are superstars there. Madrid, even with Beckham, could not match that level of support."

Players threaten to sue club



Damiano Tommasi: AS Roma star has yet to receive some bonuses and wages from the club.

to receive last (northern) summer's unpaid bonuses and wages dating back to March of this year.

Under Italian law the players could begin legal action if outstanding payments are not made by June 30. Should Roma then fail to settle up, the players can tear up their contracts and become free agents.

Roma's city rivals Lazio are also several months late in paying their players' salaries, a damning indictment of the current parlous financial state of Italian football.

Roma's money problems were not helped by performances on the pitch last season.

An early Champions League exit was followed by a mid-table league finish before they were beaten in the Italian Cup final by AC Milan.

AS ROMA players are threatening to sue the ailing Serie A club over unpaid wages, according to Italian media reports here.

Midfielder and players' spokesman Damiano Tommasi has reportedly led the revolt in a desperate bid

Juve sign Camoranesi

Juventus FC have bought the full ownership of Mauro Camoranesi from Hellas Verona FC.

The Argentina-born midfielder player arrived at the Delle Alpi last summer but until today the two clubs shared his registration. Now, for a sum of around €4.5m, the Italian international has become a Juventus player outright.

The 26-year-old's first season in a Bianconeri shirt was hugely successful as Juve won their 27th Scudetto and were runners-up in the UEFA Champions League.

Camoranesi slotted in as a replacement for the injured Gianluca Zambrotta on the right and his superb performances forced coach Marcello Lippi to move Zambrotta to the opposite

flank when he returned from his injury.

Camoranesi recently obtained Italian citizenship and has already won two international caps. Juventus have also bought full ownership of striker Massimiliano Vieri, brother of Internazionale FC's Christian, whose registration they also previously shared with Verona.

Olympiakos coach rewarded

Ukrainian coach Oleg Protasov has been rewarded for leading Olympiakos to a record seventh consecutive Greek title by being handed a new contract.

Protasov's future at the club looked in some doubt as more high-profile managers were linked to the post, including former Germany coach Berti Vogts, now in charge of Scotland.

But it appears Olympiakos have decided to stick with Protasov, who took over from Srecko Katanec in February to become the team's fourth coach last season.

No details have yet been revealed regarding the terms of the deal which was reached following three hours of negotiations between Protasov, club president Socrates Kokkalis and his deputy Giorgos Louvaris.

"We're continuing together in the new season. We spoke about the team's preparations. We discussed the year that awaits us and the problems that lie ahead," Protasov told reporters following the deal.

"Every year is more difficult than the previous one," he added.

Now that the coaching position has been settled, Olympiakos's next objective will be to deal with prospective

signings for the new season.

Protasov said he was content with the club's transfer activity so far but refrained from commenting on any future imports.

"I'm not in a position to discuss names being mentioned in the press. We're discussing some players and are carrying on," said Protasov.

Olympiakos have already added seven new names to their roster for next season, including Czech goalkeeper Juraj Bucek and Greek Under-21 international Spyros Vallas, both from first division Skoda Xanthi.

Ieroklis (Akis) Stolidis has also signed after being freed by Iraklis Thessaloniki.

"At Olympiakos, the competition is definitely greater. Every single player wants to be part of the starting line-up. Nobody likes sitting on the bench," said the 30-year-old Bucek.

"I have the experience and will strive for the best I can."



Oleg Protasov: Olympiakos coach was rewarded with a new contract.

Pompey threaten Dons legal action

Portsmouth are considering taking legal action against cash-strapped Wimbledon.

The Premiership new boys are frustrated over the Dons' apparent reluctance to tie up the loose ends of Harry Redknapp's moves for Nigel Reo-Coker and Joel McAnuff.

Portsmouth claim they have made progress in talks over personal terms with the pair but are being delayed by Wimbledon's administrators.

Chief executive Peter Storrie told the club's official website, www.pompeyfc.co.uk: "Both players want to come here and we had been making excellent progress then this."

"To say it's frustrating is an understatement and I have never come across such a situation in all my years being involved in football at the highest level."

"We will be looking at legal action."



Portsmouth coach Harry Redknapp.

Red Devils in Walsall youth link-up

Manchester United and first division Walsall have announced a new joint-venture aimed at improving youth development.

As part of a three-year agreement, United will assess youngsters coming through the ranks at the Becot Stadium while helping the Saddlers develop

their scouting network in the West Midlands and set up loan deals for their players.

Walsall's Academy staff will also attend coaching clinics held by United coaches and the club's youngsters will get the opportunity to train at United's Carrington complex.

Walsall chief executive

Roy Whalley welcomed the deal, telling the club's official website: "We are delighted to have this link with Manchester United and to be able to call on the expertise of some of their specialist staff to improve the effectiveness of our own youth development programme."

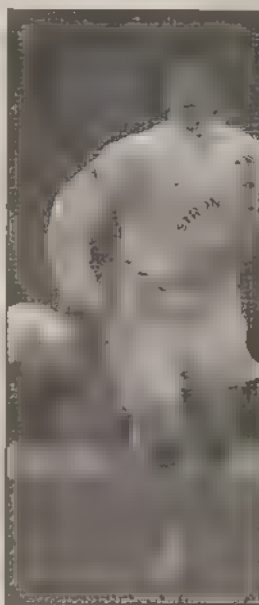
"Our challenge is to

attract good players to Walsall and then to ensure they are given every assistance to reach their potential."

"This agreement will help us to do this and the link with Manchester United will be a big stimulus to our young players to set their standards high."

Top 25 Linked Player Moves - 1 Month

No.	Name	From Club	To Club	Fee
1.	David Beckham (Eng)	Manchester United	Real Madrid	Done
2.	Roy Makaay (Hol)	Deportivo la Coruna	Bayern Munchen	£10.56m
3.	Santiago Canizares (Spa)	Valencia	Arsenal	£10m
4.	Ronaldinho (Bra)	Paris-SG	Manchester United	£?
5.	Cristian Chivu (Rom)	Ajax Amsterdam	Barcelona	£?
6.	Hidetoshi Nakata (Jap)	Parma	Chelsea	£10m
7.	Xabi Alonso (Spa)	Real Sociedad	Manchester United, Real Madrid	£20m
8.	Ruud van Nistelrooy (Hol)	Manchester United	Barcelona	£40m
9.	Patrick Vieira (Fra)	Arsenal	Real Madrid	Bosman
10.	Luis Figo (Por)	Real Madrid	Inter Milan	£?
11.	Ryan Giggs (Wal)	Manchester United	Inter Milan	Swap
12.	Savio (Bra)	Real Madrid	Atletico Madrid	Bosman
13.	Marc Overmars (Hol)	Barcelona	Middlesbrough	£6m
14.	David Trezeguet (Fra)	Juventus	Valencia	£30m
15.	Robert Pires (Fra)	Arsenal	Inter Milan	Swap
16.	Cristiano Doni (Ita)	Atalanta	Sampdoria	£4.3m
17.	Harry Kewell (Aus)	Leeds United	Arsenal	Swap
18.	Receber Rustu (Tur)	Fenerbahce	Barcelona	Bosman
19.	Juan Pablo Angel (Col)	Aston Villa	Real Betis	Swap
20.	Claudio Lopez (Arg)	Lazio	Arsenal	Free
21.	Stephen Carr (Ire)	Tottenham Hotspur	Newcastle United	£5m
22.	Simao Sabrosa (Por)	Benfica	Newcastle United	£?
23.	Geremi (Cam)	Real Madrid	Manchester United	£9m
24.	Gareth Southgate (Eng)	Middlesbrough	Manchester United	£3m
25.	David Dunn (Eng)	Blackburn Rovers	Birmingham City	£?



Our very own Harry Kewell set for the Gunners next season?

NEW NAME FOR LEAGUE CUP

The Football League has announced a three-year agreement with brewers Coors which will see the League Cup named the Carling Cup next season.

The League's previous deal with Coors - which saw the competition go under the Worthington Cup banner for five years - ended at the end of last season but a new contract has been agreed.

Concerns had been raised over the search for a new sponsor after Coors initially stalled on signing a new deal, with many league teams still struggling to recover from the financial problems brought on by the ITV Digital collapse.

But league chairman Sir Brian Mawhinney hailed the agreement as great news for the clubs.

He said: "This new agreement is terrific news for the league. The healthy increase in revenue it delivers will provide a timely boost to our clubs as they begin their prepa-

rations for the new season and is a massive vote of confidence in league football.

"Over the past five seasons Coors Brewers have become highly valued partners to the Football League.

"By-extending our partnership a further three years with Carling, their premium brand, they have given a significant endorsement to the importance of this competition.

"I would like to thank Coors Brewers for their continued support and I look forward to three very successful seasons of cup football."

With a recent downturn in sponsorship across all sport, the league were impressed by the interest shown in the competition.

Commercial director Richard Masters said: "The level of interest shown in the sponsorship of the League Cup, in what it is widely perceived as a difficult market, has been extremely encouraging for the league and its clubs."

Houllier: Murphy staying at Anfield

ENGLAND international midfielder Danny Murphy will not be leaving Liverpool, manager Gerard Houllier said last week.

The Frenchman told the BBC website 26-year-old Murphy wanted to stay with the club he joined from Crewe in 1997 despite the player himself suggesting he wasn't optimistic about earning an extended contract.

"Danny has got three years on his contract at Liverpool and he is very happy," said Houllier.

"Danny does not want to leave Liverpool."

Murphy, who scored 12 times in all competitions last season, had raised question marks over his future when he said that while he would like to stay for good he wasn't certain of how the negotiations would go. "After what I went through to get to where I am, playing for Liverpool means a lot to me," said Murphy, who was voted the club's player of the season last term.

"I'd be happy to play out the rest of my career at Anfield, but we will have to wait and see what happens now."

Liverpool have also confirmed that they are to hold contract talks with Murphy's fellow England stars, Michael Owen and Steven Gerrard, to ensure they extend their present deals at the club.

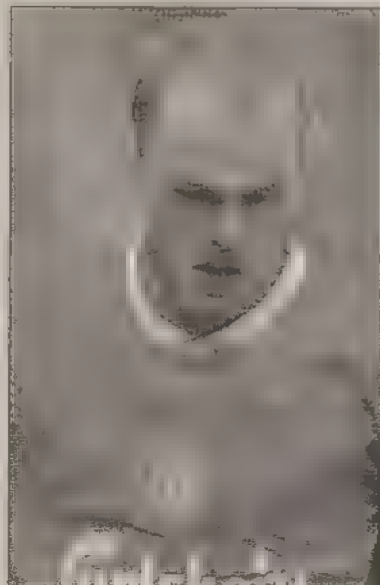
"Steven Gerrard and Michael Owen are two of our key players and we are determined to hang on to them," said chief executive Rick Parry.

"We are always very aware of when play-

ers contracts run out, and equally we are aware that they are key players and we have no intention of losing either of them.

"We don't just talk to players' agents every three years and then don't sit down and discuss things for another three years. We are in constant touch with players' advisors and their agents, discussions are ongoing.

"We have no intention of losing our key players and we will hang on to them."



English International Danny Murphy will not be leaving Liverpool next season.

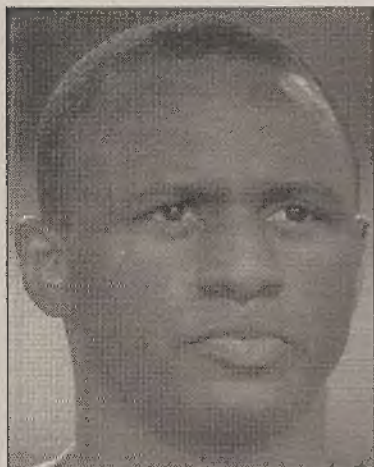


FIFA WORLD RANKINGS

1	Brazil	843	1	0	1	0	51	New Zealand	557	52	1	49	-2
2	France	784	3	1	2	0	52	Trinidad and Tobago	553	51	-1	47	5
3	Spain	784	2	0	3	1	53	Slovakia	548	53	0	55	2
4	Germany	757	4	0	4	0	54	Hungary	544	58	4	56	2
5	Argentina	753	6	1	5	0	55	Zimbabwe	538	60	5	56	1
6	Netherlands	746	5	1	6	0	56	Cuba	535	55	1	71	15
7	England	739	7	0	7	0	56	Iraq	535	54	-2	53	3
8	Turkey	722	8	0	9	1	58	Guatemala	534	55	3	78	20
9	Mexico	720	9	0	8	-1	59	Taiwan	533	55	-4	66	7
10	United States	715	10	0	10	0	59	Cote d'Ivoire	533	67	8	64	5
11	Denmark	715	11	1	12	2	61	Estonia	528	65	4		
12	Italy	709	14	2	13	1	61	Austria	528	61	0	54	-7
13	Czech Republic	707	13	0	15	2	63	Venezuela	527	65	2	69	6
14	Portugal	706	12	-2	11	3	64	Scotland	524	59	5	58	-6
15	Republic of Ireland	704	15	0	14	-1	65	Congo DR	520	63	-2	65	0
16	Belgium	681	16	0	1	1	66	Algeria	517	70	4	68	2
17	Costa Rica	671	18	1	21	4	67	Ghana	516	64	-3	60	
18	Cameroon	666	17	-1	16	2	68	China PR	513	62	-6	63	5
19	Paraguay	664	19	0	18	1	69	Zambia	512	69	0	66	-3
20	Sweden	660	20	0	24	4	70	Iceland	509	68	2	58	12
21	Korea Republic	656	21	0	20	1	71	Qatar	506	71	0	62	-9
22	Serbia and Montenegro	650	22	0	19	-3	72	Bosnia-Herzegovina	503	72	0	87	15
23	Japan	645	25	2	22	1	73	Chile	494	80	7	84	11
24	Norway	643	23	-1	26	2	74	Mali	493	79	5	73	-1
25	Russia	641	24	-1	22	3	75	Jordan	492	73	-2	77	2
26	Croatia	640	26	0	32	6	76	Belarus	489	75	1	74	-2
27	Romania	631	28	1	24	-3	77	Canada	488	74	-3	70	-7
28	Uruguay	629	27	-1	28	0	78	Kenya	486	76	2	80	2
29	Poland	627	28	1	33	4	79	Latvia	483	86	7	78	1
30	Senegal	627	30	1	27	-2	80	Haiti	482	76	-4	71	-9
31	South Africa	624	31	0	30	-1	81	Peru	479	78	-3	82	1
32	Nigeria	621	32	0	29	-3	82	El Salvador	472	82	0	94	12
33	Ecuador	620	33	0	31	2	83	Burkina Faso	470	81	-2	75	-8
34	Iran	614	34	0	33	-1	84	Indonesia	469	84	0	110	26
35	Bulgaria	611	38	3	42	7	84	Georgia	469	93	9	90	6
36	Slovenia	610	36	0	35	0	86	Angola	468	83	-3	76	-10
37	Honduras	608	40	3	40	3	87	Kuwait	464	84	-3	83	4
38	Morocco	604	36	-2	35	-3	88	Cyprus	463	87	-1	80	-8
39	Columbia	601	35	-4	37	-2	89	Albania	458	88	-1	83	4
40	Tunisia	596	41	1	41	1	90	United Arab Emirates	448	90	0	89	-1
41	Israel	596	44	4	46	6	90	Syria	448	92	2	91	1
42	Saudi Arabia	594	39	-3	38	-4	92	Togo	447	89	-3	85	-7
43	Switzerland	588	43	0	44	1	93	Macedonia FYR	446	91	-2	85	-8
44	Egypt	587	42	-2	39	-5	94	Barbados	444	95	1	99	5
45	Greece	577	46	1	48	3	95	Vietnam SR	442	96	1	108	13
46	Finland	577	47	2	43	-2	96	Liberia	441	94	-2	88	-8
47	Ukraine	570	44	-3	45	-2	97	Libya	439	98	1	104	7
48	Jamaica	570	50	2	51	3	98	Singapore	437	99	1	118	20
49	Australia	568	48	-1	50	1	99	Lithuania	434	97	-2	100	1
50	Wales	558	49	1	52	2	100	Congo	424	107	7	97	-3

WORLD NEWS & TRANSFER BLUES

ARSENAL SCUPPER VIEIRA RUMOURS



Arsenal star Patrick Vieira.

Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein stressed that Patrick Vieira is not for sale and insisted Manchester United have not approached the club about their French skipper.

Reports claimed Sir Alex Ferguson is interested in buying the midfielder, who is in the middle of talks over a new contract.

But Dein told the Press Association: "There have not been any inquiries for Patrick Vieira from Manchester United, and even if there was to be an inquiry he is not for sale."

Arsenal remain confident that Vieira will sign a new deal and believe that if the 27-year-old should ever want a move he would go abroad.

Vieira has one year left on his contract but the likelihood of Harry Kewell arriving at Highbury and Robert Pires' decision to sign a new deal should encourage him to remain at Arsenal.

Ferguson did try to sign Vieira two years ago but was unable to persuade the French international to move or Arsenal to sell.

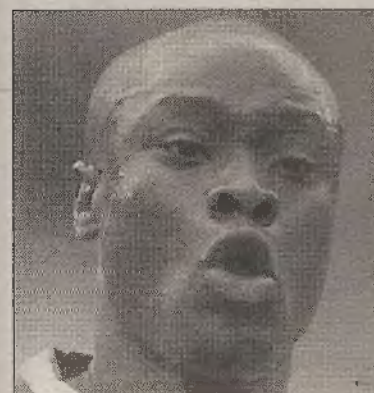
Speaking on a charity trip to Senegal last month, Vieira said he was happy as captain of Arsenal and would sign a new deal, though he was critical of Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood.

GALLAS SET FOR NEW CHELSEA DEAL

Defender William Gallas is set to sign a new four-year contract with Chelsea, according to his agent.

Gallas, who only last week expressed his dissatisfaction with life at Stamford Bridge, will extend a deal which still has three years to run when he returns from Confederations Cup duty with France.

"We have practically reached an agreement and after the Confederations Cup



William Gallas is expected to sign a four-year deal with Chelsea.

William will sign a new contract," said agent Pape Diouf, who reportedly met Chelsea chief executive Trevor Birch on Monday.

"It will happen," he told the London Evening Standard.

QUEIROZ GRABS REAL JOB

Carlos Queiroz has been unveiled as Real Madrid's new coach. Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson has given his permission for Queiroz to take up 'the chance of a lifetime' and the former Portuguese national coach hopes to progress as a first team coach.

Although Mike Phelan will almost certainly be asked to fill the vacancy in the short-term, Ferguson is likely to look to appoint another coach with wider knowledge of the European game.

Past experience suggests Ferguson will take his time trying to find the right man and the identity of Queiroz's successor will catch everyone by surprise.

No-one predicted the arrival of Queiroz or predecessor Steve McClaren, who Ferguson recruited from Derby after an intensive search over a period of months during the 1999 Treble-winning campaign.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Carlos, too big a chance to turn down," Ferguson told the Daily Mail.

"But we won't be in a rush to appoint a new coach. I've been very satisfied with the job that Mike Phelan has been doing."

Queiroz has been hailed as a major factor behind United's defensive transformation this term and Real will be looking for him to do a similar job at the Bernabeu as the Spanish giants try to reclaim their European crown.

It was their Champions League semi-final exit to Juventus which proved to be crucial in the departure of coach Vicente del Bosque over the weekend, although, while surprised at the move, new signing David Beckham will welcome Queiroz's appointment after working so closely with him at Old Trafford.

BAYERN CONFIRM MAKAAY OFFER

Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has confirmed that the club have made an official offer for Deportivo La Coruna striker Roy Makaay.

The 28-year-old European Golden Boot winner scored 29 goals in La Liga last season, matching the record set by former Brazilian international Bebeto in 1994.

Such a strike rate has drawn the attention of the Germany champions.

"We made an offer last week and we are waiting for the answer," said Rummenigge.

"The player has hinted that he wants to play for us."

Deportivo president Augusto Lendoiro has insisted that the only way Bayern Munich might be able to prise the Dutchman away from the Riazor is to pay his buy-out clause of nearly £40million.

"Makaay has a buy-out clause of 10,000 million pesetas," said Lendoiro.

"If someone is willing to pay that, then we would be able to sit and talk with the club that was interested in him."

If Bayern do fail in their attempts to lure Makaay to the Olympiastadion, Boca Juniors star Carlos Tevez is another target

of the Bundesliga side.

"All who have seen him were excited and we are holding talks," Rummenigge added.

ROVERS CONSIDERING DUNN OPTIONS

Blackburn chief executive John Williams has revealed that, apart from Birmingham, one or two other clubs are interested in midfielder David Dunn.

Rovers rejected an initial bid of £5.5m from their Premiership rivals.

Williams told the *Lancashire Evening Telegraph*: "Nothing more has happened with regards to any potential move to Birmingham but one or two other clubs are keen on David."

"We have reached a position where we have told City what we are prepared to accept despite being reluctant sellers."

"We don't want to lose him, but equally you don't want to stand in a player's way when he wants to leave."

"So far we have been unable to reach any agreement and soon we may have to think about getting on with it and David coming back for pre-season training."

SOLANO VOWS TO STAY WITH MAGPIES

Nolberto Solano has vowed to fight for his place at Newcastle amid talk his time on Tyneside is up.

The 28-year-old Peruvian has been a fixture in Sir Bobby Robson's side as they have dragged themselves from the depths of despair to the brink of genuine success, and he is desperate to remain at St James' Park for the latest push.

However, the recent recruitment of Lee Bowyer and Darren Ambrose to an already competitive midfield pool, as well as the club's continuing pursuit of Feyenoord's right-sided Australian attacking full-back Brett Emerton, have placed a question mark over the South American's future.

Solano, whose current deal does not expire until 2006, is determined not to be squeezed out, though, after learning of Robson's admission that United may have to consider any offer for him.

But Solano admits things could be taken out of his hands. "If Newcastle decide to sell me, then I don't have much choice," he said.

"I saw what the manager said, but it's nothing personal."

"I'm quite happy to stay at the club despite the signing of Lee Bowyer, and my agent hasn't mentioned anything about my future."

"I know nothing about any interest from other clubs and I'm not on the transfer list."

"But of course I will have to go if United receive a good offer. Every player in the world has a price and I don't pretend to be any different. Just look at David Beckham."

Solano arrived on Tyneside from Argentinian outfit Boca Juniors in August 1998 as then boss Kenny Dalglish made a £2.5million swoop which was to prove one of his most successful investments.

He has occupied the right-hand side of midfield virtually ever since, winning the approval of Dalglish's successors Ruud Гуллит and then Robson, and repaying them with some excellent service to skipper Alan Shearer in particular, as well as

chipping in regularly on the goals front himself.

Indeed, such has been his form at times that Solano has been consistently linked with a series of potential suitors over the years, including Manchester United and Real Madrid.

However, Robson grew tired of the effect on his fitness of his frequent trips back to South America on international duty, and managed to persuade him temporarily to turn his back on Peru.

But Solano has since returned to his country's fold at a time when the Newcastle boss appears to have come to a decision that the inclusion of two wingers - Laurent Robert is the man on the left - away from home is not necessarily the best policy, and that too has cast a doubt over Solano's status.

"One day a bid might come in and I might be told it is time to talk about my future," he told *The Journal*. "But no way do I want to leave."

"I have worked hard to help Newcastle establish itself as one of the best clubs in the Premiership and I don't want to miss out on what might happen next season."

LI TIE WANTS TO SEAL EVERTON DEAL

Chinese international Li Tie is confident he will be at Everton next season.

The 25-year-old impressed during a season-long loan deal at Goodison Park last season and the club are now hoping to seal a permanent deal.

Discussions are taking longer than expected, but the player said: "I can safely say the negotiations are moving along quite smoothly."

"While I am not involved directly, I am confident my agent can iron out the details of my contract in due time," he told the club's official website.

AC MILAN WARN BARCA OVER RUI COSTA

Barcelona's hopes of landing Portugal star Rui Costa have been scuppered by his club AC Milan, with vice-president Adriano Galliani declaring the playmaker "non-transferable".

Costa, who played an integral role in Milan's successful Champions League campaign, has been linked with a move to the Nou Camp following the appointment of Frank Rijkaard as coach in Catalonia.

But Galliani has moved to quash those reports, and has declared the bulk of the Milan side not for sale.

"Rui Costa is non-transferable," Galliani told Italian newspaper *Corriere dello Sport*.

"We have decided that the first 18 to 19 players of the European champion squad are not for sale. It is a demonstration of faith and gratitude for what they did."

"It will be up to them to go ahead and face the three finals we are to play for the Italian and the European Super Cup and the Intercontinental Cup."

SALONIKI KEEN ON DE BILDE

Greek club Aris Saloniki have emerged as contenders to sign Anderlecht striker Gilles De Bilde.

Fellow Jupiler League outfit Lierse, Cordoba and Chicago have also shown an

interest in the 32-year-old frontman but a two-year deal may be on the table in the Ehniki Kategoria.

However, the Belgian giants have admitted that they have not received a firm bid for the player.

"We would prefer to send De Bilde to a foreign club," said Anderlecht manager Michel Verschueren.



Greece bound for Gilles De Bilde?

"This is more interesting to us than to send him on a loan basis to Lierse for example."

De Bilde has only a year left on his current contract.

NUMAN MAY RETURN TO IBROX

Arthur Numan could be set for a return to Rangers just over three weeks after an emotional farewell to Ibrox supporters.

The former Holland international is poised to sign a short-term deal with the club before finally leaving for America in January.

Numan said his goodbyes to the fans following the Tennent's Scottish Cup final win over Dundee on May 31 after rejecting a new deal to stay at the club.

But, after failing to find a new club, the 33-year-old may be ready to sign for half a season according to his agent, Joop Korevaar.

He told *The Daily Record*: "At first, Arthur said no to Rangers, but it is now possible he will go back."

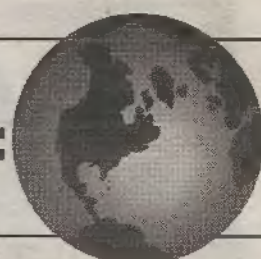
"Hopefully he can sign for six months before fulfilling his dream of playing in America."

"The deal would be beneficial to both parties as Arthur's experience would be big help to Rangers in the Champions League."

"I'm waiting to hear back from Rangers, but I'm hopeful something can be sorted next week."

Meanwhile, the Light Blues look set to add Dundee defender Zura Khizanishvili to their ranks after the completion of the move for Nuno Capucho last week.

The club have also been linked with a move for Blackburn target, Frank de Boer - the twin brother of Gers' playmaker Ronald.



DEL BOSQUE SACKED

VICENTE Del Bosque is to leave his post as coach of Real Madrid after the club's board voted unanimously last week not to renew his contract, the club's sporting director Jorge Valdano announced.

The Real board also decided not to retain the services of long-serving captain Fernando Hierro.

The decisions came a day after Real won their 29th league title and less than a week since England captain David Beckham was signed.

"It is necessary to make changes from time to time," said Valdano. "Even at times of success."

Spanish television said Manchester United assistant manager Carlos Queiroz is in the frame to replace Del Bosque.

Queiroz was formerly coach of Portugal, Sporting Lisbon and South Africa.

But having guided the Africans to the 2002 World Cup he quit before the finals and joined United last (northern) summer.

Real spokesman Enrique Sanchez revealed that Real have offered 52-year-old Del Bosque a post as technical director and added the club have several top coaches in mind to replace him.

Del Bosque became the second high-profile coaching casualty of the day as Barcelona replaced Raddy Antic with Frank Rijkaard despite the Serbian having guided them from the relegation zone to a UEFA Cup place.

Del Bosque has been in charge since November 1999 and coached the "meringues" to two league titles and two Champions League crowns and earlier had been described as "very important to the club" by president Florentino Perez.

It had been thought Del Bosque would be offered a one-year contract as coach.

Del Bosque is grossly underpaid by comparison to his counterparts in the Spanish first division and considering his successes, as his current contract was signed when he was a reserve team coach.

Hierro, 35, who reports said had been expected to be offered a two-year contract, has been outstanding for Real Madrid since joining in 1989.

Last season he was heavily criticised for his defensive performances as Juventus, in particular, tore him to shreds in the Champions League semi-final second leg victory.

But it is thought that the club wanted to economise on his salary of four million euros.

Spain's most capped player won four Champions League crowns, five titles, two world club championships and one Spanish Cup.

It looks as though Hierro could well play one more season for a rival Spanish club but has hinted that he could make the move to either England or Italy?

A gifted player nonetheless the veteran defender served his country well on the international front.



Real Madrid coach no more: Vicente Del Bosque.

Veron expects new Italian job

Juan Sebastian Veron expects to be sold to a Serie A side this summer, but says he "would not have a problem" if he stays at Manchester United.

The Argentina midfielder cost £28m from Lazio two years ago but will be worth much less in the current market.

He has three years remaining on his Old Trafford contract but has suggested he would be happier at Inter Milan or Juventus next season.

United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has already raised £25m by selling England captain David Beckham to Real Madrid.

And Veron is convinced that he will be next player to leave.

"I think I will be playing in Serie A next season."

"I am flattered that a few teams are looking at me. Big players are good in big teams."

"I would not have any problems playing for Hector Cuper [at Inter Milan] or Marcello Lippi [at Juventus]. I will be the right man."

However, Veron admits he would be happy to remain with the Reds, and added: "I have a contract that binds me to United for another three years. I wouldn't have a problem in continuing my English adventure, but I think I'll be back playing in Italy."

Veron has had mixed reviews during his time in Manchester, and added in the Daily Star: "In the first year in Manchester I wasn't fit. I had a tendon problem but I tried to grit my teeth because I wanted to play."

"Then the knee injury disrupted my second season, although when I came back I gave my help."

Rijkaard new 'Barca' boss

NEW Barcelona boss Frank Rijkaard stated that he will revive the ailing Spanish giants' fortunes with his own brand of attacking football.

After signing a four-year contract to replace Serbian coach Radomir Antic, the former Dutch national coach said: "This is a proud day and a great challenge to come to a club which shares the same philosophy of attacking play as me."

Club official Txiki Begiristain told Spanish media "a new coach is necessary", explaining why Antic had been released despite leading the Catalans to a UEFA Cup place after taking over in November when they looked set to finish in the



Frank Rijkaard: New Barcelona coach.

lower half of the table for the first time since 1942.

"It's not for sporting reasons as he's achieved the sporting objective of qualifying for the UEFA Cup but the new regime here want to start making some changes."

Rijkaard follows Cruyff and Louis van Gaal to become the club's third Dutch coach in the last decade.

Rijkaard, 40, was third on Laporta's wish-list.

He failed to persuade either PSV Eindhoven coach Guus Hiddink, who coached South Korea to the World Cup semi-finals last year, or the former Barcelona player and present Ajax coach Ronald Koeman to come to Catalonia.

Laporta, left by the previ-

ous board with debts of 98 million euros, has pledged to restore Barcelona to their glory days under Cruyff, who is a strong supporter of the 41-year-old corporate lawyer.

Laporta has yet to decide about the future of Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert but Barcelona said they are releasing one of their five Dutch players, veteran defender Frank De Boer, but offered new terms to Philippe Cocu.

Michael Reiziger, Marc Overmars and Kluivert make up the Dutch contingent.



Teddy Sheringham: Former Spurs star is set to sign with new boys Portsmouth.

Pompey to sign Teddy

FORMER Tottenham and England striker Teddy Sheringham has agreed terms to join English Premiership new boys Portsmouth, the club's official website.

Portsmouth said that 37-year-old Sheringham would sign for the south coast club when he returned from holiday.

Last month Sheringham was told by Tottenham manager Glenn Hoddle that he would not be given a new contract at White Hart Lane.

Portsmouth, who won promotion as First Division champions, were immediately linked with the forward who scored for Manchester United in their Champions League final win over Bayern Munich in 1999.

Millwall, where Sheringham made his name as a professional player, were also said to be interested in him as were Portuguese giants Sporting Lisbon.

Sampdoria Strengthen Squad



Italian International Cristiano Doni has signed with Sampdoria next season.

Sampdoria UC have made their first reinforcements of the summer by signing five players, including Italian international Cristiano Doni from Atalanta BC and Japan striker Atsushi Yanagisawa from J League side Kashima Antlers.

Atsushi Yanagisawa has joined UC Sampdoria Doni, 30, arrives with a reputation as a goalscoring midfielder despite a disappointing campaign which ended in relegation for Atalanta. He has scored 33 times in the past three seasons and was in Italy's squad at last summer's FIFA World Cup.

While the terms of Doni's transfer are not yet known, Yanagisawa joins on a year's loan from Antlers, a club coached by former Brazil defender Toninho

Cerezo, a member of Samp's 1991 title-winning team.

The 26-year-old can play either as a striker or on the wing and scored a memorable goal against Italy when the sides met in Saitama in November 2001. Ironically, it was Doni who registered for the Azzurri in that 1-1 draw.

The Genoa club, who are back in the top flight after a four-year absence, have also announced three other loan signings, including Doni's former Atalanta team-mate Massimo Donati.

The 22-year-old midfielder player joins on loan from AC Milan, together with another midfielder player, Luca Antonini. Right-back Aimo Stefano Diana, meanwhile, arrives from Parma AC.

Roma jump the gun on Lucio

Bayer Leverkusen have denied claims from Roma president Franco Sensi that Brazilian defender Lucio is on his way to the Stadio Olimpico.

Sensi told Gazzetta Dello Sport that he had clinched the signature of the commanding centre-half, but, although Leverkusen admitted they had been contacted by the Serie A club, a deal appears some way off.

"We can confirm there has been interest from AS Roma but there is nothing definite right now," Leverkusen press officer Uli Dost told PA International.

"Our general manager Reiner Calmund has repeatedly said that we might part ways with two players but we can't say whether or not it will be Lucio."

The player has constantly stated his desire to stay at the BayArena despite reported interest from European giants including Real Madrid and Manchester United.



Bayer Leverkusen have denied the move linking Lucio to Roma in the summer.

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